BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.129 BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 30 | PRICE ₹5**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES AND *12 PAGES OF EDUCATION TIMES (*CITY AREAS ONLY)

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER | To subscribe call 1800 1200 004 or visit subscribe.timesofindia.com

Satheesan-led UDF govt plans to **hand over to CBI an abetment case related to Kannur ADM Naveen Babu's suicide**, after graft allegations by a CPM neta. Left party calls move 'politically motivated', P 7

Drone hits Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Russian-occupied southern Ukraine, UN nuclear agency confirms. IAEA team at N-plant observes damage to exterior of a turbine building hit by the drone, PG OPP

French authorities arrest 780 football revellers from across the country after arson, violence at overnight celebrations of PSG's CL victory over Arsenal, PG OPP

Iran won't accept any pact to end conflict with US unless there is certainty Iranian people's rights are secured, top negotiator Qalibaf says. Reports emerge that **Prez Trump** has sent a tougher peace proposal back to Tehran, PG OPP

REPEAT CHAMPIONS BENGALURU

It's Bengaluru back to back! Led by a vintage, unbeaten 75 (42 balls) by warhorse Virat Kohli, Royal Challengers Bengaluru cantered to their second IPL crown in 2 years, beating Gujarat Titans by 5 wickets at their home ground, Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi stadium. The champs chased down the 156-run target with 2 overs to spare

- The contest lost its edge in the 1st innings itself as **RCB quicks restricted GT to 155/8.** Washington Sundar (50 n.o) stretched the Titans' score in the last quarter after they had been reduced to 99/5 at the start of 15th over
- For RCB, medium pacer **Rasikh Salam Dar took 3-27** while Josh Hazlewood (2-37) & Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2-29) shared four wickets
- The Bengaluru chase started off with a racy **62-run partnership in 4.3 overs between openers Kohli and Venkatesh Iyer** (32 off 16 balls). Except for a **brief flutter when RCB lost 2 wickets in the 9th over** with the score reading 91-4, the reigning champs looked in control through the match

Photo: Yogesh Chawla

BEEN THERE, WON THAT: As in last year's triumph, Virat Kohli again played a king-sized role in RCB's victory, topping off with his fastest IPL 50 (in 25 balls) in Sunday's final. In IPL 2025, he had scored 657 runs at a strike rate of 144.7. This year, Virat was the tournament's 4th highest run-getter with 675. His strike rate was significantly higher at 165.8 P 4 & 11

STARS ON A STREAK

- **Krunal Pandya** played in 4 IPL finals prior to Sunday's match and never lost one. This is now his title No. 5
- **Josh Hazlewood** too kept his 100% win record in T20 finals. This was his 6th title — including 2 each with RCB and Sydney Sixers
- RCB are current title-holders in both men's IPL and the Women's Premier League

VAIBHAV MAKES HISTORY

Teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi capped a breathtaking IPL season by becoming the youngest recipient of **Orange Cap**, at 15 yrs, 65 days. The RR opener finished IPL 2026 with 776 runs from 16 innings. GT's **K Rabada won the Purple Cap** with a tally of 29 wickets, pipping Bhuvneshwar Kumar (28) to the post

No word yet on dy CM, cabinet formation in 2 phases: Kharge

DKS, Siddaramaiah Will Travel To Delhi Today To Pick Team

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru/Kalaburagi: With the clock ticking towards DK Shivakumar's swearing-in as Karnataka chief minister on Wednesday afternoon, Congress has shifted gears to put together a team of ministers, appoint a new chief for the party's state unit and pick members for boards and corporations.

Outgoing CM Siddaramaiah and the CM-elect are heading to New Delhi Monday to meet the high command to finalise the first set of names.

In Kalaburagi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said there has been no discussion yet on the creation of a deputy CM's post or on possible names for cabinet formation. "There has not been a decision yet whether to swear in 8 or 10 ministers on Wednesday," he said.

Mallikarjun Kharge said ministry formation will be a two-phase exercise: First, this week; and the second in 15-30 days. He lobbed the ball into the CM's court, saying, "Ultimately, it is up to the new chief minister to decide what he will do." All ministry-related discussions would be held after June 3.

On the next KPCC president, Kharge said search was going on for a new leader who could strengthen the party organisation.

▶ FULL COVERAGE: PAGE 2

▶'Inclusive leader', P 3

K'TAKA SET FOR 34TH CM TENURE

D K Shivakumar inspects Cong office site ahead of the foundation stone laying ceremony likely to be attended by Kharge and Rahul on June 3

- On Wednesday, **Karnataka will join Uttar Pradesh and Bihar**, which have also had 34 CM tenures since Independence
- Including its years as Mysore state, **Karnataka has had 23 individuals** serve as chief minister across 33 tenures
- **DKS will become the 24th; his term 34th**
- **Shorter tenures became more frequent from 1980s** as Karnataka politics underwent a transformation, Congress monopoly weakened and regional forces emerged
- **Tamil Nadu and Odisha** have had only **15 individuals** occupy the post Full report, P 2

DKS plans yatra across K'taka

CM-elect D K Shivakumar, who is looking to establish himself as a pan-Karnataka mass leader, is planning a statewide yatra from June 10, **reports Pearl DSouza**. The Janashirvada programme will be held in three phases and is scheduled to start from the Vokkaliga heartland of Mandya. P 2

Siddaramaiah may stay on in Cauvery

Siddaramaiah is likely to continue staying at Cauvery, despite stepping down from CM post. Rules allow a former CM up to six months to vacate the official residence, but sources say he has reached an understanding with DK Shivakumar to continue to stay at Cauvery until 2028. P 2

B'luru flight to Jaipur takes off after 10-hr delay

An Air India Express flight scheduled to fly to Jaipur from Kempegowda International Airport Saturday witnessed a 10-hour delay. It reached Jaipur International Airport at 7.52am. On Sunday evening, also, the flight was yet to take off from Bengaluru. The airline later clarified that the delay was mostly due to adverse weather conditions in Bengaluru and across the flight route. P 3

Blast at Myanmar building storing explosives, 55 die

At least 55 people died and 70 were injured in a blast on Sunday at a building in northeastern Myanmar, said to have been storing explosives for mining. Kaungtup village in Namhkam township is under the control of Ta'ang National Liberation Army, a group engaged in sporadic fighting against Myanmar govt. PAGE OPP

7 tourists killed as SUV falls into Himachal gorge

Seven tourists from two families and a local taxi driver died in Himachal Pradesh after their SUV veered off the road and fell into a 500-metre gorge in Chamba. Himachal Pradesh Police have retrieved the bodies of all eight, concluding a recovery operation following the Friday night accident. TNN

Suman Kalyanpur passes away at 89

Veteran singer Suman Kalyanpur, who gave her voice to hits such as 'Na Na Karte' and 'Tumne Pukara', passed away on Sunday evening at her residence in Mumbai due to age-related issues, a close friend said. She was 89.

Cricket camp pitch roller crushes teen

A 15-year-old boy was crushed to death by a pitch roller, being pulled by children without supervision, at a cricket camp in Maharashtra. A case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder was filed against two coaches.

BJP wins 3 of 4 HP civic bodies, Cong 1

Results of May 17 Himachal Pradesh municipal elections declared on Sunday saw BJP winning three of four civic bodies. BJP wrested control of Mandi, Dharamshala and Solan, leaving Congress with only Palampur. TNN

CBSE crisis deepens: Student data exposed, say cyber activists

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Fresh allegations of massive cybersecurity lapses, data exposure and administrative failures have deepened the controversy surrounding CBSE's On Screen Marking (OSM) system, with activists now approaching National Human Rights Commission for urgent intervention to protect students' educational rights, amid continuing disruptions in the board's post-exam processes.

The latest row erupted after independent developers and ethical hackers publicly claimed that sensitive student data, scanned answer sheets and question papers linked to CBSE's digital evaluation infrastructure were exposed online because of serious security vulnerabilities.

Android developer Sidharth posted on X: "Almost every single OnMark portal built by EduTek is fundamentally insecure, and CBSE is lying to you about the safety of student data. We found default passwords, URL-based RCEs, and raw MD5 hashes. Millions of students are at risk."

Separately, 19-year-old software engineer Nisarga Adhikary alleged on X that CBSE-linked storage systems had been left openly accessible online. "CBSE people didn't configure their AWS bucket (a public cloud storage container) properly and now we can paginate & enumerate all their media which has 2026 answer sheets & question papers," he said, claiming "anyone on the internet can download any scanned booklet".

▶Nagpur univ's tender tweaks under lens, P 10

▶Vulnerabilities..., P 10

Jharkhand 17-year-old's analysis of OSM tender fuels demand for full recheck

A 17-year-old Jharkhand student's blog post titled "How CBSE rewrote rules to favour Coempt EduTeck" has gone viral, leading to amplified calls for a complete re-evaluation of Class XII board exam answer sheets and an independent audit of the evaluation system, **reports Manash Gohain**. In his forensic dissection of CBSE's On-Screen Marking (OSM) tender, Class XII student Sarthak Sidhant alleged that the board repeatedly altered tender conditions and "rewrote its own rulebook" in ways that allegedly benefited the Hyderabad-based company that was awarded the OSM contract. P 10

5 killed as SUV hits auto on B'luru-Hyd NH

Chikkaballapura: Five people — an autorickshaw driver, and four women labourers — were killed and five others sustained serious injuries in a road accident on the Bengaluru–Hyderabad National Highway near Sunkalamma Temple in Bagepalli taluk Sunday.

The accident occurred around 3pm when a Mahindra Thar travelling towards Hyderabad allegedly rammed an autorickshaw from behind. The impact forced the autorickshaw to ram a lorry parked on the roadside, trapping the vehicle between the truck and the SUV. The deceased were identified as auto driver Anjinappa, 35, and passengers Umadevi, 55, Vijaya, 40, Lakshmamma, 50, and Sarojamma, 65, all residents of Bagepalli town. TNN

▶9 travelling in auto, P 4

VP: Conversions create confrontation, weaken religious harmony

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mangaluru: Vice-president CP Radhakrishnan Sunday said religious conversions must stop if harmony among all faiths is to be preserved and suggested that conversions often create confrontation and weaken harmony.

Addressing a gathering at the inauguration of Siri Mathushree Industrial Park, organised by Dharmasthala institutions, the VP said Hindus respect all faiths and added that he was not against any religion but opposed religious conversions.

Recalling an interaction with over 100 bishops in Kerala, he said he had told them that every individual has a right to remain in his or her faith and worship God according to personal beliefs. "God is one — whether it is Christian, Islamic or Hindu. Bhakti, or devotion, is what matters," he said.

The vice-president said inclusive development would be central to India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, stressing that progress must benefit all sections of society. He emphasised that Dharmasthala's greatness lies in rising above religious boundaries and social divisions.

He said the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) could be realised only through equitable progress, social empowerment and economic opportunities for all.

> God is one — whether it is Christian, Islamic or Hindu. Bhakti, or devotion, is what matters...
>
> The country's development journey is centred on inclusive growth and last-mile delivery. Economic progress must benefit every citizen and ensure dignity and opportunity for all
>
> **CP Radhakrishnan** | VICE-PRESIDENT

▶Economic progress, P 4

20-hour rescue ends in agony: 6 die in Delhi building collapse

New Delhi: Six people were killed and at least 10 wounded but rescued from the rubble of a multi-storey commercial building that "pancake-collapsed" in the densely populated Saidulajab area in south Delhi Saturday evening. The upper floors of the five-storey building crashed onto the lower ones, causing massive slabs of concrete to land on a neighbouring canteen that was the go-to hangout for students of the locality's coaching centres, **report Abhay, Devanshi Mehta & Khushi Bhuta**.

Those killed were the mess owner, Parvati, and three engineers (Kapil, Nalin Rai and Alok Verma) and two doctors (Ravi Verma and Ekta) who were eating dinner there. A multi-agency rescue operation, spanning nearly 20 hours, concluded Sunday afternoon when the final body was retrieved from the base of the wreckage.

▶Owner on the run, P 10

Nepal, India encroaching on each other's land, UK must step in: Balen Shah

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Nepal PM Balendra Shah backed dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the border dispute with India but, in remarks unlikely to go down well with New Delhi, he also urged the UK to take interest in addressing the issue, saying his govt had already discussed it with London and China. Responding to questions in Parliament on Sunday, Shah said both India and Nepal had encroached on each other's territory.

The border dispute had seen a flare-up early May — just over a month after Shah was sworn in — after Kathmandu protested the decision by India to resume with support from China the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Uttarakhand state crossing at Lipulekh Pass that is claimed by Nepal. Kathmandu had raised the issue with both India and China.

India had strongly rejected Nepal's claim, saying it is neither justified nor based on historical facts and evidence, and that such unilateral artificial enlargement of territorial claims is untenable.

▶'British India period', P 10

453 Nepalese freed from UP job trap

A cross-border job scam was busted in eastern UP after police and intel agencies rescued 453 youth from Nepal during a crackdown on what officials described as an illegal recruitment and training network operating out of Kushinagar district, barely 20km from the Nepal border. P 7

Mamata calls off meet with TMC MLAs after only 20 of 80 turn up

Kolkata: Trinamool Congress chief **Mamata Banerjee** on Sunday called off a scheduled meeting with her party's legislators after only 20 of 80 MLAs turned up, with the party blaming the mass absence on a "sudden and emergent ground situation" triggered by attacks on senior functionaries and several arrests statewide.

Trinamool spokesperson Kunal Ghosh, speaking outside Mamata's residence in south Kolkata's Kalighat, insisted the absentee MLAs were "stuck managing the ground situation and assisting arrested workers" after police action against party members protesting attacks on national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and, later, his MP colleague Kalyan Banerjee.

"All our legislators have said they stand firmly with the party during these difficult times," Ghosh told reporters, adding that TMC called off the meeting "for the time being" after the absent MLAs made a "legitimate request" for postponement. TNN

▶Daylong sit-in, P 10

Abhishek attack: TMC worker among 5 held

Five people, including a TMC worker who helped organise Abhishek Banerjee's visit to Sonarpur, were arrested on Sunday for the assault on the MP in which eggs, stones and shoes were hurled at him. Those arrested were identified through phone footage and TV visuals. P 10

NEW CDS, NAVY CHIEF TAKE CHARGE

ANI & IANS

General NS Raja Subramani on Sunday took charge as new CDS, saying, "We're committed to implementing PM's vision of JAI — Jointness, Atmanirbharta and Innovation." (Right) Admiral Krishna Swaminathan also assumed charge as India's new Navy chief on Sunday. He succeeds Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi. Admiral Swaminathan described the regional security environment as "challenging, complex, and unpredictable" & asserted that maintaining peak operational readiness will be his highest priority | P 5

SAT-CHI BREAK 2-YEAR TITLE JINX

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clawed back from a game down to clinch their maiden Singapore Open title on Sunday, beating world No. 3 Indonesians, Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri, in the men's doubles final. Sat-Chi won 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 to secure their 1st title in 2 years. Since winning Thailand Open in 2024, the pair had lost in 4 finals | P 10

Price of meds for diabetes, high BP capped

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has capped the retail prices of 30 drug formulations, including medicines used for diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, infections and women's health, **reports Anuja Jaiswal**. The notification covers drugs commonly prescribed for many chronic illnesses that require long-term treatment. It fixes the maximum retail price at which these formulations can be sold, excluding GST. Manufacturers will not be allowed to market them above these rates. Experts say medicines account for a large share of household healthcare spending in India. P 5

Law aims to curb commercialisation of prostitution, not criminalise it: SC

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: After an "exhaustive and microscopic" analysis of the 70-year-old Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA), Supreme Court has ruled that the principal objective of the legislation is neither to abolish prostitution nor to make it a criminal offence but to prevent its commercialisation.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said, "We are sure that abolition of prostitution or making prostitution a criminal offence is not the principal object of the Act. Rather, what it aims for is the inhibition or abolition of the commercialisation of prostitution, i.e., prostitution as an organised means of living."

While dealing with the issue of rehabilitation of women rescued from brothels, the bench analysed the 1956 Act and said at commencement of 20th century, the trafficking of women for prostitution was common and considered "immoral", hence the word got attached to the law.

▶'Not to punish', P 10

IN THE COURTS

- **MP HC acquits a man given life term in 2017** for killing a 12-yr-old boy near Bhopal, **saying 'trial court judge** had lost track of case and was **intent on convicting accused by hook or by crook'** | P 6
- **Chhattisgarh HC refuses to grant full back-wages to a former power distribution staffer** dismissed after **conviction in a graft case** but later acquitted on appeal. Says exoneration doesn't erase legal consequences of a valid dismissal order | P 10
- Bombay HC **nixes** criminal case and **proceedings against in-laws** of a woman, observing that **refusing to take sides can't be basis to invoke 'cruelty' charge** | P 6

Security guard kills woman, fakes leopard attack

Mysuru: A security guard who murdered a 63-year-old woman for gold ornaments worth Rs 7.5 lakh in Mysuru district tried to pass it off as an attack by a leopard. However, his luck ran out within five days when police reconstructed the events, leading to his arrest on Saturday, **reports Shrinivasa M**.

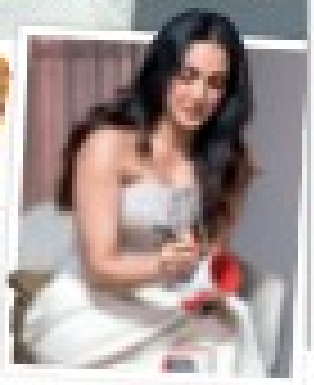
According to Nanjangud Rural police, Shivarudramma, from Kasuvinahalli, went missing on May 25 after she left home for her agricultural land. The police registered a missing complaint and launched a search operation.

▶Guard used twig, P 4

Bangalore Times

KIARA ADVANI

'Directors I work with now, will get the best version of me'



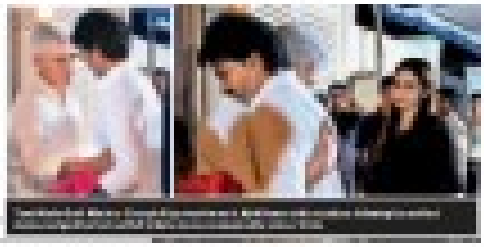
Stars like Ranveer, not FWICE, sell tickets at theatres, says RGV

Background

Buzzstop

TRUMP JR DOES CANCELLING THE FREEDOM 250 CONCERTS AFTER ARTISTS DROP OUT

Vijay and Trisha visit Ajith's residence to offer condolences after mother's demise



Beyond gold: Wedding jewellery alternatives for brides

Education TIMES

THE PATH TO EXCELLENCE

UPSC Prelims answer key release is a reformative move to help aspirants make informed decisions

IIMs single window synchronised admissions will end waitlist anxiety

NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR LEARNING (NAFL)

An International School

Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru

Nurturing a Legacy of Excellence

Since 1994

THE TOPPERS 2025–26

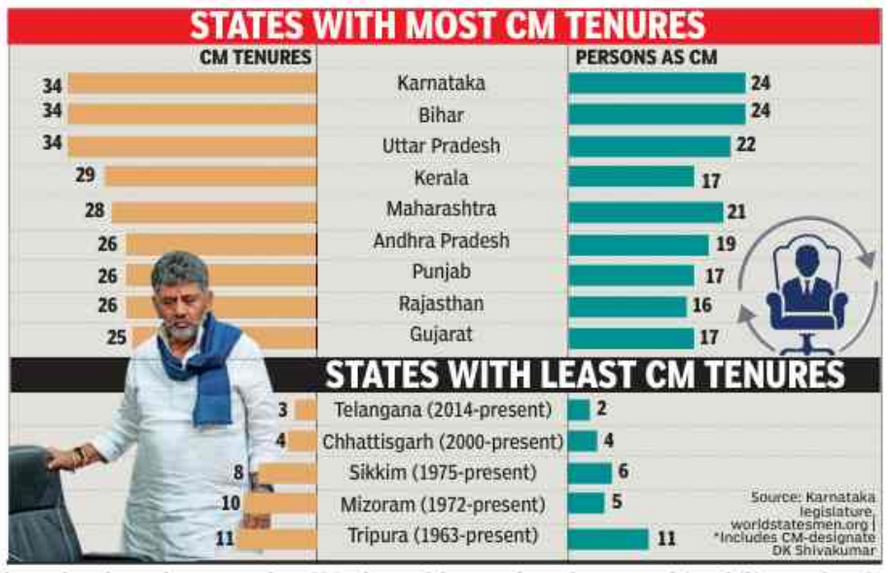
ADMISSIONS OPEN 2026-27

NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR LEARNING

REVOLVING DOORS Many Big States, Including TN & Gujarat, Have Seen Much Less Churning | 45% Probability Of Deficit Monsoon Rain

34 & counting: CM turnover in K'taka on par with UP, Bihar

Chethan.Kumar@timesofindia.com



Bengaluru: When DK Shivakumar takes oath as chief minister on Wednesday, it will place Karnataka in an exclusive and politically significant category occupied by only two other Indian states—Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Bihar.

Karnataka is set to record its 34th chief ministerial tenure since Independence. That milestone reveals a political history defined by intense competition, shifting alliances, coalition experiments, and periodic bouts of instability.

Since the days of the erstwhile Mysore state, Karnataka has had 23 individuals hold the CM's post across 33 chief ministerial tenures. Shivakumar will become the 24th; his term 34th. Karnataka has had eight spells of President's Rule—in 1962, 1967, 1972, 1978, 1989, 1990, 2007 and 2008.

The numbers put Karnataka on par with Bihar and UP, both of which have also recorded 34 chief ministerial tenures. Bihar has also seen eight spells of President's Rule and 24 individuals occupy the top office, while UP has had nine periods of central rule and 22 CMs.

The comparison is striking because Karnataka, one of India's economically advanced states, is generally perceived as administratively stable. Yet, beneath that image lies a political landscape that has often been fragmented and fiercely competitive.

Dramatic transformation

Karnataka politics underwent a dramatic transformation from the late 1980s, as Congress' monopoly weakened and regional forces associated with the Janata Parivar emerged as serious challengers. The subsequent rise of BJP created a three-cornered contest that produced fractured mandates, coalition govts, defections and power-sharing arrangements.

No episode illustrates this churn better than the succession of govts between 2004 and 2013 when alliances collapsed, CMs changed frequently, and the state endured two spells of President's Rule.

Another measure of political volatility is the number of individuals who have held the office. With Shivakumar's elevation, Karnataka's tally of CMs will rise to 24, matching Bihar and exceeding most major states. Tamil Nadu and Odisha, for instance, have had only 15 individuals occupy the post, while West Bengal has had just nine chief ministers over nearly eight decades.

Ability to absorb change

Yet, despite political instability, Karnataka's political system has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to absorb change while maintaining institutional continuity. Despite frequent leadership transitions, the state has emerged as one of India's most influential economic centres, attracting investment, nurturing the country's technology sector and sustaining relatively robust democratic institutions.

Siddaramaiah's departure also carries its own historical significance. During his first tenure between 2013 and 2018, he became the first Karnataka CM in nearly four decades to complete a full term. His exit now denies him the distinction of becoming the first CM in Karnataka's history to complete two full terms in office.

Greater continuity

Several states have experienced far greater continuity. Chhattisgarh, created in 2000, has had only four chief ministers and no President's Rule. Telangana, formed in 2014, has witnessed just three chief ministerial tenures involving two individuals. Himachal Pradesh has recorded only 14 chief ministerial tenures since 1966 and has never come under President's Rule.

Even larger states have seen fewer leadership changes than Karnataka. Maharashtra has had 28 chief ministerial tenures, Gujarat 25, Rajasthan and Punjab 26 each, while Tamil Nadu and Odisha have recorded 24.

West Bengal stands out with only 20 chief ministerial tenures and nine individuals occupying the office, reflecting long periods of dominance by a single party or representative. None of the UTs that have had CMs have had more chief ministerial tenures than Karnataka.

Shivakumar's elevation, therefore, represents the latest chapter in Karnataka's uniquely competitive political history — one where authority has rarely remained concentrated for long, elections are closely fought, and changes at the helm are woven into the fabric of the state's democratic evolution.

DKS' council of ministers may have fewer Vokkaligas

Sandeep.Moudgal
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Rather than increase, the elevation of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president DK Shivakumar as Karnataka's chief minister-elect could see the number of ministers from the Vokkaliga community shrink compared to Siddaramaiah's council of ministers.

Functionaries say Shivakumar's elevation could complicate efforts to balance representation among key communities, especially the politically influential Vokkaliga community, to which he belongs.

In Siddaramaiah's cabinet, Vokkaligas, including Shivakumar, held six ministerial positions. The cabinet also had eight Lingayats, two Kurubas, six Scheduled Caste representatives, three Scheduled Tribe members, two from Other Backward Classes, two Muslims, three members from smaller communities and a Christian.

Congress functionaries are wary since reduced Vokkaliga representation could create an opportunity for JD(S) to regain political ground in the Old Mysuru region, despite Congress having elevated a prominent Vokkaliga to the top post.

Shivakumar, who hails from Bengaluru Rural district, must also navigate regional aspirations since he is expected to receive demands from Vokkaligas in Mandya, Mysuru, Tumakuru, Kolar, Hassan, Chikkaballapur and Chikkamagaluru districts.

Sources say other changes could complicate the balancing exercise. They point to the possibility of senior functionary KH Muniyappa, who represents Bengaluru Rural and belongs to the Scheduled Caste (Left) community, vacating his ministerial berth in favour of his daughter, Roopa Shashidhar, who represents Kolar. Such a move could affect the prospects of MC Sudhakar, Vokkaliga MLA from Kolkar, who may be dropped to accommodate Sharath Bachegowda from Hoskote in Bengaluru Rural district.

"However, there is a challenge here as the CM-elect himself is from Bengaluru Rural district and his confidante, HC Balakrishna is also in the race for a ministerial berth," said a Congress MLA.

Sources say Shivakumar will also face pressure to identify a Vokkaliga representative from Mysuru district who is perceived as politically independent of outgoing CM Siddaramaiah.

At the same time, Congress functionaries are wary of reducing representation for Ahinda groups — a social coalition of minorities, backward classes and Dalits that forms a crucial part of the party's support base. Any reduction in ministerial positions allotted to these communities and the party could face consequences in the 2028 elections.

Similarly, reducing the Lingayat quota in the cabinet may carry political risks, given the community's strong influence across several north Karnataka districts. Some functionaries believe the situation could ease if former minister Satish Jarkiholi is appointed KPCC president. Such a move, they argue, could create greater flexibility in accommodating Ahinda representation.

However, political analyst Sandeep Shastri said the challenge confronting Shivakumar is far from unique.

"In the recent past there has been an increased need for a rainbow coalition of social groups," he said. "With Shivakumar himself being a Vokkaliga there will be a need to introduce deputy CMs and a new KPCC president to balance the other social groups."

Shastry said regional aspirations would also need to be addressed. "It is a fine balancing act," he said.

THOSE WHO MAY MAKE THE CUT

NEW FACES

FROM PREVIOUS CABINET

- KJ George (Christian)
- G Parameshwara (SC)
- Priyank Kharge (SC)
- Laxmi Hebbalkar (Lingayat)
- Satish Jarkiholi (ST)
- Zameer Ahmed Khan (Muslim)
- Byrathi Suresh (Kuruba)
- Krishna Byre Gowda (Vokkaliga)
- Dinesh Gundu Rao (Brahmin)
- MB Patil (Lingayat)
- Eshwar Khandre (Lingayat)
- N Cheluvarayaswamy (Vokkaliga)

No flowers for me please, says DKS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Chief minister-elect DK Shivakumar Sunday urged party workers and functionaries not to present him with flower garlands, insisting he is allergic to them.

"My skin starts itching," Shivakumar said.

Ironically, during the day, many of his colleagues in the previous cabinet, functionaries and legislators, who made a beeline to his residence in Bengaluru to congratulate him and push for cabinet berths, presented him with flowers.

Ahead of birthday too, he had warned supporters against installing banners, wishing him. Shivakumar also defended the decision to have a low-key swearing-in ceremony, saying he is only a loyal party worker set to become chief minister and thus there will be no large-scale celebration.

To endear himself to people, new CM to embark on statewide Janashirvada

Pearl.DSouza
@timesofindia.com

Madhusudhan SR

WIN FOR OUR MAN: Supporters of DK Shivakumar celebrated his election as CLP leader by offering special prayers at Sri Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru district on Sunday

Bengaluru: Given that he would have a relatively short two-year tenure, CM-elect DK Shivakumar is looking to establish himself as a pan-Karnataka mass leader over the first month after he takes oath.

As part of the plan, Congress is preparing a 'Janashirvada' programme, a statewide yatra from June 10, which will occur across three phases. Bucking a trend of visiting his own constituency, the CM-elect is scheduled to first visit the Vokkaliga heartland of Mandya.

He will then travel to other parts of the state—two districts in each of the four zones—to connect with the people. This will happen thrice in total, covering almost every district in the state, said GC Chandrashekar, KPCC working president.

Although there was talk of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and outgoing CM Siddaramaiah joining him in a display of unity, sources who are part of the organising team said Shivakumar will go solo for now.

"This is not a rally. It is merely a way to seek blessings from the electorate as he steps in as the CM," party sources said.

Meanwhile, the decision to decentralise the commemoration of a new CM is part of Congress' plan to keep the transition low-key. Two reasons emerge from the decision to hold the swearing-in at Lok Bhavan: One, the June 4, 2025, RCB stampede fiasco, and two, showing deference to outgoing CM Siddaramaiah and his displeased supporters.

"We wanted to avoid busloads of party workers and supporters arriving from each district, which would normally be the case with a larger swearing-in," said an organiser.

Congress is also quietly preparing for legislative council and Rajya Sabha elections for seven and four seats respectively, scheduled for mid-June. However, discussions on who will make it to the cabinet hogged the limelight with party functionaries, former ministers, and aspirants making a beeline to the new centre of authority—Shivakumar's Sadashivanagar residence.

Former ministers MB Patil, Dinesh Gundu Rao, Mankala Vaidya, and Madhu Bangarappa, to MLAs Raghavendra Hitnal, BR Patil, Roopakala Shashidhar, Tanveer Sait, Kashappanavar Vijayananda Shivashankarappa, Annapurna Tukaram and her husband besides E Tukaram, MP, and Bilkis Bano, MLC, visited.

Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty was also among the select few visitors who met Shivakumar.

Out of CMO, Siddaramaiah could remain at Cauvery

Sandeep.Moudgal
@timesofindia.com

File picture

STAYING PUT: Siddaramaiah could retain the much-coveted bungalow, which is usually reserved for chief ministers

Bengaluru: Siddaramaiah is expected to continue residing at Cauvery, the official chief ministerial residence despite stepping down from the CM post, marking the second time in his political career that he is likely to retain the bungalow after demitting office.

While rules allow a former CM up to six months to vacate the official residence, sources say Siddaramaiah has reached an understanding with CM-designate DK Shivakumar to continue to stay at Cauvery until 2028, the remainder of Congress govt's term.

Cauvery is among the most sought-after govt residences. There are only 21 govt bungalows available for 34 cabinet ministers, and constitutional functionaries, including the Lokayukta, assembly speaker, legislative council chairman and opposition leader. Cauvery is considered premium due to its proximity to Krishna, the CM's official home office, and its relatively secluded location in the heart of Bengaluru.

Siddaramaiah has had a long association with the residence. Sources say he has remained in positions of authority continuously since 2013 while residing at Cauvery, leading some supporters to regard the bungalow as politically "fortunate".

However, now that he is no longer CM, Siddaramaiah will require an alternative arrangement to continue occupying the residence.

In 2018, after the Congress-JD(S) coalition govt was formed under HD Kumaraswamy as CM, Siddaramaiah reportedly reached an understanding with Kumaraswamy that allowed him to remain at Cauvery.

At the time, KJ George, then serving as industries and IT-BT minister, secured allotment of the residence in his name but continued to live in his own private residence in Bengaluru. It enabled Siddaramaiah to remain at Cauvery.

A similar arrangement could be made now. Sources say Siddaramaiah's son, Yathindra, is likely to be inducted into Shivakumar's cabinet and could potentially be alloted the residence, allowing Siddaramaiah to continue staying there.

Meanwhile, Shivakumar is yet to take a call on his own official residence and office arrangements. He currently operates from Bungalow No 1 in Kumara Park East, which serves as his official home office. Given his belief in astrology and vaastu, functionaries expect him either to shift to another govt bungalow or make modifications to his existing residence before formally assuming office.

As CM, Shivakumar will have first claim over govt accommodation and can direct ministers occupying official residences to vacate them to facilitate any reshuffle in bungalow allotments.

Looming drought could be new govt's big test

Shrinivasa.M@timesofindia.com

PTI

NOT ROSY: File picture of a woman harvesting flowers. Deficit monsoon rainfall could stress agricultural operations in the state

> If the Western Ghats regions in Karnataka and Maharashtra do not receive sustained high-intensity rainfall, inflows into major reservoirs may remain inadequate, potentially triggering a range of challenges, including inter-state water-sharing disputes
>
> **G Srinivas Reddy** | FORMER DIRECTOR, KSNDMC

Mysuru: If Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre most recent data for the southwest monsoon (June-Sept) season is any indication, tackling drought could emerge as one of the first major challenges for the new govt led by DK Shivakumar.

KSNDMC's latest assessment suggests the state is likely to experience a combination of below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures in June, raising concerns over agricultural operations, potable water availability and reservoir inflows. KSNDMC analysis shows June may still bring a few favourable spells of rain over parts of eastern Karnataka and isolated pockets of Malnad region. But the broader seasonal outlook points to a 45% probability of below-normal southwest monsoon rainfall across the state.

Experts say this warrants close monitoring of reservoir storage, river inflows, agricultural advisories, drought mitigation measures and overall water resource management during the year.

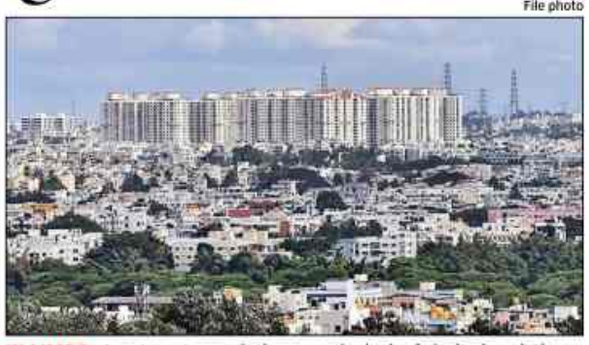
The outlook suggests maximum temperatures during June are likely to remain above normal over most parts of Karnataka, which could increase evapotranspiration losses and place additional stress on rain-fed agriculture.

KSNDMC's rainfall anomaly map shows extensive dry areas in the state's traditional high-rainfall belt, including Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, parts of Kodagu and Shivamogga districts. Any significant rainfall deficit in these catchment regions could adversely impact inflows into major reservoirs and river systems if the forecast materialises. The outlook also indicates below-normal rainfall over large parts of south interior and north interior Karnataka, including Mysuru, Mandya, Tumakuru, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Gadag and Davanagere districts.

Flat solution? Bengaluru homeowners pin hopes on new CM

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesofindia.com

File photo



IN LIMBO: Apartment associations say the lack of clarity in existing provisions is creating confusion & delays in registrations

Bengaluru: With a leadership change expected in Karnataka and DK Shivakumar likely to take over as chief minister, apartment residents are hopeful of long-pending reforms through a new apartments Act.

Shivakumar first spoke about the Act at a Brand Bengaluru meet in 2023 with multiple resident welfare associations. Since then, despite several meetings, active campaigning by homebuyers, and judgments passed by the high court, Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Rera), and civil courts, no concrete solution has been provided to homebuyers struggling with the existence of two apartment laws in the state.

Back in Dec 2025, at a meeting with RWAs in Vidhana Soudha, Shivakumar repeatedly pointed out that apartment residents have traditionally not voted for the Congress despite the govt fulfilling several of their promises. The state at present has two different laws governing apartments — Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act-1972 and Karnataka Societies Registration Act-1960.

But now, with Shivakumar set to become CM, homebuyers see fresh hope that the Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2025, will finally move forward in the upcoming legislature session.

Apartment associations **TOI** spoke to said the lack of clarity in the existing Acts and provisions is creating confusion and delays in association registration.

Satish Mallya, president of Bangalore Apartments' Federation, said: "Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2025 is one of the most important legislations for apartment communities in the state. The proposed law has remained pending with the govt for a long time despite repeated assurances. With DK Shivakumar set to play a larger leadership role, apartment residents hope that the legislation will finally be implemented to address the concerns of lakhs of apartment owners across the state."

Anil Kalgi, president, Bangalore City Flat Owners' Welfare Association, said: "No meeting has been held and nothing has happened since the last discussion in Dec. The matter has been dragging on since the end of 2023. We expect Shivakumar to clear the matter at the earliest since he had promised to do so. If it is going to take more time, then proper arrangements and immediate relief should be provided to apartment owners under the existing law. Another major issue is that courts are passing contradictory orders, which is affecting homebuyers."

Cong manifesto promise

The bill was a key Congress manifesto promise during the last assembly elections, and the delay — three years into the govt's term — has raised doubts about its intent. There are over 10,000 apartment complexes in Bengaluru and, barring a few, most are not properly registered under different laws. Some exist as companies and some as cooperative societies, while many remain unregistered despite the protections promised under the law.

A member of the BDA Apartment Owners' Forum said: "Given his (Shivakumar's) consistent support for apartment owners' concerns, we are hopeful that an apartment ownership Act will be enacted at the earliest. This is particularly important for BDA apartments, where several projects have reached or are reaching the handover stage and residents are facing challenges in forming associations, managing common areas, collecting maintenance, and taking collective decisions. A comprehensive and practical Act will provide much-needed clarity, strengthen resident participation, and help ensure smoother management of apartment communities. We are looking forward to this long-pending reform becoming a reality."

Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, convener, Karnataka Home Buyers Forum, said: "Many homebuyers have been waiting since 1972 for apartment association registration under the competent authority and for the transfer of common areas to associations. With the new political developments in the state, we hope the commitment made to bring through a new legislation will finally become reality. We hope to get justice after waiting for five decades."

Seer demands cabinet berth for Hariprasad

Mangaluru: Akhila Bharatha Billavara Union has urged the Congress to ensure representation for Billava community leaders in the cabinet when DK Shivakumar takes oath as chief minister.

Vikhyatananda Swami of Arya Ediga Mahasamsthana, Solur, told reporters Sunday that MLC BK Hariprasad, a seasoned politician and secular leader, should be given a ministerial berth in Shivakumar's cabinet. The seer said that Hariprasad is a veteran politician and an active Billava leader who has served in the Rajya Sabha and as leader of the opposition in the legislative council. The Billava community is a significant population segment in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. TNN

Desserts are having a Cinderella moment. And it's at midnight

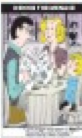
POV

Meet Gus, a $30M dinosaur fossil headed to auction

A destination designed for modern celebrations in the Himalayan foothills

YOUR POV

LEISURE



AI may assist doctors make medicine smarter

Automation improves decision-making, but human precision has an edge during treatment, writes Anubhav Mishra

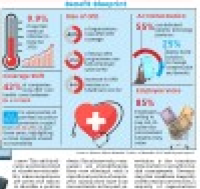
Data-Driven Model

NBEMS launches 11 new specialised medical programmes

Nurses need clinical reasoning to offer evidence-based care

Preventive care boom drives demand for digitally skilled grads

Expanding wellness services and rise of GCCs are likely to influence curriculum priorities and future employability benefits, says report



BEST OF OORU

PREEMA JOHN

Preema, a Fulbright Fellow, is the director of Indian Music Experience Museum, Bengaluru, India's first & only interactive music museum dedicated to showcasing the history of music in India. Preema has worked on several national and international cultural projects, and held leadership roles in arts organisations including Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Asia Society and Kochi Muziris Biennale

Which Bengaluru space makes you feel most connected to the city?

For me that would undoubtedly be Lalbagh. It is my absolute favourite sanctuary in the city, and my go-to spot for showing visitors what makes Bengaluru so special. Beyond the stunning, tree-lined boulevards, Hopcoms and nursery, I have a deep affection for the magnificent, ancient silk cotton trees hidden throughout the park.

One of my favourite rituals is heading there at dawn during the annual flower shows to snap photos of rare blooms for my family. There is also a distinct, simple joy in finishing a vigorous run, plonking down on the grass, and people-watching. During my early days here, I noticed people pausing at a massive tree to fold their hands in reverence. A guided heritage walk later revealed the secret —they were seeking blessings from three auspicious resident owlets! Today, I always wrap up my walks barefoot on the Lalbagh Rock — Peninsular Gneiss, soaking in the grounding energy of the three-billion-year-old geological wonder.

Is there any aspect of Bengaluru's cultural landscape that people often overlook?

People usually define Bengaluru by its great weather, lush canopy, and notorious traffic. But what truly deepened my love for this city is the inherent respect and kindness woven into everyday interactions. The widespread culture of addressing everyone—from a professional peer to an Uber driver as 'Sir' or 'Ma'am' speaks volumes about the city's egalitarian ethos. It is a level of everyday grace you rarely see in other major Indian metropolises.

Living in South Bengaluru, I am also treated to a unique cultural soundtrack. Every weekend, I wake up to the magical, resonant strains of the Nadaswaram. It took me months of searching to finally spot the source — a beautifully adorned ceremonial bull and a folk musician wandering through the lanes. There is a beautiful simplicity here, unlike other cities, there is absolutely no "show-off" culture. Instead, you discover a fascinating mosaic of distinct, quiet neighbourhood subcultures.

If you had to recommend one 'best of Bengaluru' experience, what would it be?

When I first moved here, everyone pointed me toward the city's famous pub culture. But to me, the true pulse of Bengaluru lies in its iconic tiffin rooms. If you want to understand the genuine soul of this city, skip the bar hop and go on a breakfast trail. You will see true-blue Bengalureans from every imaginable walk of life standing shoulder-to-shoulder, waiting for a steaming plate of idlis or crispy dosas.

SIDDIS' SECOND COMING

A new generation of Siddi athletes is chasing sporting excellence, jumpstarting a legacy that burned bright decades ago

Biju.BabuCyriac@timesofindia.com

Nimeksha Siddi powers down the track on a cold spring morning in Loughborough, a market town in Leicestershire, England. The 19-year-old's face glistens with sweat as the wind tugs at her curls. Not far away stands her coach, Leon Baptiste, a former European junior champion, who was the fastest man at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi. His eyes are fixed on the teenager.

A mom's legacy, her child's promise

Nimeksha, 5 feet 4 inches tall, is the younger of the two daughters of Kamala Siddi, one of the prominent Karnataka faces of the now-defunct Special Area Games or SAG project, and decathlete Mingel Savor Siddi. The SAG programme, launched in 1987 by the Sports Authority of India under the then Union sports minister Margaret Alva, aimed to identify and nurture talent from tribal communities, including the Siddis.

Siddis are the descendants of Bantu people from Southeast Africa believed to have been brought to India centuries ago.

Kamala — a sprinter who later shifted to the 100m and 400m hurdles, and won silver in the shorter race at the South Asian Games in Chennai in 1995 — has been a pillar of support for her daughter.

Now 49, Kamala works as a chief office superintendent with the South Western Railway. When Nimeksha was 14, Kamala took her to Ashok Mantur, a reputed sprint coach with Karnataka govt's department of youth empowerment and sports (DYES) at Vidyanagar in Bengaluru.

Nimeksha broke the 200 metres record during her first year at the school. "She is disciplined and hard-working. With the right support and training, she will excel for the country in the next decade," says Mantur.

Speaking to TOI from her training base in Loughborough, Nimeksha says she hopes to build on the platform her mother stood on for athletes from her community.

"My mother is my biggest inspiration and hero," she says. "She tells me stories of her athletics days, and I always wanted to be like her. Her strength and determination pushes me to give my best every day. She doesn't put any pressure on me, she's just my biggest supporter."

Nimeksha, who has a personal best of 12 seconds in the 100m, is preparing to compete at national-level meets back home later this year.

As upbeat and hopeful as she sounds about her future on the track, her voice drops as she reflects on her journey. "I have faced racism, it still happens," she says of competing in India. "I get stared at a lot, sometimes people laugh. At national competitions people stare, and I even hear them making fun of me. There have been times when I have struggled to even warm up before races. Some people have been kind, which helped me cope."

Chethan Shivakumar

Siddi children training at the DYES centre in Vidyanagar, Bengaluru

Star Siddi athlete of yesteryear Kamala with daughter Nimeksha

After finishing Class 10 in Hubballi, the young sprinter is now pursuing undergraduate studies at Loughborough University.

The boxing squad

At the DYES sports hostel in Vidyanagar, 33 Siddi youths, including 11 girls, are training to be boxers who pack a lot of punch. Almost every Siddi trainee here has already proven their mettle — by winning gold at the state championships. "They (Siddis) have natural strength and speed to excel," says Nagesh Patil, their DYES boxing coach.

Around 2020-21, the Karnataka govt initiated a focused programme to identify and recruit dozens of young athletes from the Siddi belts of Uttara Kannada, selecting them through large-scale trials and placing them in structured residential training aimed at developing champions in disciplines such as boxing, wrestling, and athletics.

The non-profit Bridges of Sports Foundation has been sponsoring the training of Nimeksha, along with another promising sprinter, Nayana Kokkare, since Oct 2024. The Foundation has literally raised the bar for sports training by providing international exposure and high-quality coaching to athletes.

The forgotten Siddis

Thirteen-year-old Kamala Siddi fled the 1987 trials in Mundgod to select the first batch of SAG athletes, terrified by stories of human trafficking. But Kamala found the courage to attend trials for the second batch the following year, stirred by the stories of India's golden generation of track queens led by P T Usha.

Kamala wrote to her parents, a farm worker and a housemaid, of her whereabouts only after travelling to the national capital for the camp. "I wanted to tell my mother (Lakshmi) I was in Delhi. She didn't know where Delhi was though she was a big fan of Indira Gandhi," Kamala says. At school, Kamala had excelled in kabaddi, kho-kho, high jump and long jump, and that gave her a headstart at the SAG camp.

Kamala says the SAG scheme floundered due to official apathy. "Most of my batchmates were all medallists in Junior Nationals," she says. "Savithri Suba Siddi was a junior national medallist in 800m and is now working in Goa, struggling to make ends meet. It's the same story with Dumingo Mingel Siddi and Kupi Siddi, who both had to quit sports after the scheme was scrapped."

Despite decades of neglect, there seems to be a renewed sense of hope for Siddis' in sport, led by Kamala's daughter Nimeksha — a quiet yet powerful passing of the baton between generations.

WHO ARE SIDDIS?

- Most **Siddis of Karnataka are descendants of people who escaped slavery under Portuguese rule in Goa,** and fled into the dense forests of Uttara Kannada
- Estimates from census data and community activists place the **number of Siddis in the state between 10,000 and 18,000**
- Their primary language is **Siddi Konkani** — a unique dialect that blends Konkani (from their time in Goa) with Kannada and Marathi influences

THE SAG STORY

Special Area Games or SAG project, launched in 1987 by the Sports Authority of India under the then Union sports minister Margaret Alva, aimed to identify and nurture talent from tribal communities, including the Siddis. The most famous success story was that of Limba Ram and Shyam Lal Meena, tribal youths from Rajasthan who were scouted through the SAG "archery project". Within years, they became international-level archers, with Limba Ram equalling the world record in 1992. SAG was wound up in 1993 due to various reasons, including financial overhaul following the 1991 economic crisis.

Obeisance to a great Rashtrakuta king

Chetan.Krishna@timesofindia.com

The British entered India as traders and set up shop in port cities like Kolkata and Madras. As they expanded their trade, so did their influence over several kingdoms in the 18th century. They gained a firm hold on Bengaluru only after the third Anglo-Mysore war in 1791. The British got a decisive victory in March 1791 when East India Company soldiers breached the walls of the Bengaluru Fort.

A fierce battle ensued and the British suffered severe casualties despite winning the battle. To honour their dead, the British installed a 35-ft granite memorial or a cenotaph near Hudson Circle. The stretch between present Day KR Road and Corporation Circle came to be called Cenotaph Road. The Cenotaph stood the test of time for nearly 170 years. However, post independence, following protests over the British-era name and a monument that celebrated the victory of a foreign army, the municipal corporation decided to demolish the structure and also rename Cenotaph Road as Nrupathunga Road.

STREET VIEW

The memorial was removed in Oct 1964, and in its place came the statue of Kempegowda. A month later, the road was renamed after Rashtrakuta king

Nrupathunga, aptly on Kannada Rajyotsava, Nov 1.

Amoghavarsha I Nrupathunga (CE 814-878), is considered as one of the greatest emperors of the Rashtrakuta Dynasty. He not only ruled over vast stretches of current day Karnataka, but also made great literary contributions to Kannada literature.

The oldest surviving Kannada literary work — Kavirajamarga (the royal path for poets) — was written under his court patronage. He had a long reign of 64 years and is also called 'The Ashoka of the south' for his emphasis on peace, diplomacy and internal stability. His court offered sanctuary to great writers and religious thinkers of that era.

Nrupathunga Road is not a commercial hub. It houses several govt offices and educational institutions. Colonial-era buildings housing govt offices, including that of the commissioner of school education, line the road from KR Circle to Corporation Circle. A little further is YMCA and the state police headquarters. On the other side of this stretch, you will find Nrupathunga University, formerly known as Government Science College.

Weather woes: Flight to Jaipur takes off 10 hrs late from KIA

Bengaluru: An Air India Express flight scheduled to fly to Jaipur from Kempegowda International Airport Saturday witnessed a 10-hour delay.

Flight IX 1526 was initially scheduled to take off from Bengaluru by 7.25pm and reach Jaipur at 10pm, in 2 hours and 35 minutes. However, the take-off kept getting delayed, and passengers were frustrated as the aircraft supposed to reach Jaipur Saturday night did not even take off.

Finally, the aircraft cleared all procedures and was given permission to take off only at 5.19am Sunday, delayed by almost 10 hours. It reached Jaipur International Airport at 7.52am. On Sunday evening, also, the flight was yet to take off from Bengaluru at the time of this report.

Air India Express later clarified that the delay was mostly due to adverse weather conditions in Bengaluru and across the flight route. "Weather conditions were not appropriate for the aircraft to fly. That is why there was this delay, and the passengers were given an option of a full refund or rescheduling if they wanted, as per Directorate General of Civil Aviation protocol," a spokesperson told **TOI**.

The carrier also clarified that it offered passengers a stay if they wanted to wait for the flight to take off as and when the weather conditions improved. They also added that several other flights, though not this long, took off late because of the situation. Sources also stated operational constraints due to Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) on pilots might have impacted the late take-off. TNN

Walkability focus: Malleswaram residents, experts discuss remedies to civic issues

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: More than 40 residents of Malleswaram (ward 53) joined urban planners, mobility experts, and civic practitioners Sunday for a community workshop to discuss solutions to issues related to walkability, parking, street vending, and waste management in the neighbourhood.

The workshop, titled 'Walkable Malleswaram: Reimagining Ward 53', was convened by Preeti Sunderajan and facilitated by Greenpeace India's Bengaluru Rising campaign. Participants explored ways to improve public spaces and civic infrastructure through mapping exercises and group discussions. "Ward-level solutions are often designed from the top down, with citizens being informed after decisions have already been made. This workshop turned that model around," Sunderajan said.

TOI

MENDING WARD 53 Participants explored how to improve public spaces, parking, waste disposal, and civic facilities through mapping exercises and group debate

Experts who guided the discussions included Prof Ashish Verma of the IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab, along with representatives from Street Matrix Bengaluru and Oorvani Foundation.

Prof Verma said collaboration between citizens, researchers, govt agencies, and civil society organisations was essential for translating sustainable mobility ideas into practical improvements on the ground. IISc is also working on issues of walkability and safety around Malleswaram's schools which lack parking facilities.

Deepak Srinivasan of Greenpeace India's Bengaluru Rising campaign said communities must play a central role in shaping cities. "Communities understand their neighbourhoods better than anyone else, which is why their voices must be central to how cities are planned and governed," he said. According to the organisers, recommendations generated during the workshop will be consolidated and shared publicly to inform future discussions on neighbourhood planning and civic priorities in Malleswaram.

Central Prison gets Ist Tele-MANAS facility

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: India's first Tele-MANAS centre at a prison was inaugurated at Bengaluru Central Prison in Parappana Agrahara Sunday, giving inmates access to counselling, psychological support, and mental health services.

The Nimhans initiative was inaugurated by Justice Vikram Nath, a judge of the Supreme Court and executive chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), during a visit to the prison. Tele-MANAS (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) is a tele-mental health service that will enable inmates to access counselling and psychological support.

Accompanying Justice Nath were Justice Vibhu Bakhru, Chief Justice of Karnataka and patron-in-chief of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA), and Justice Anu Sivaraman, a judge of Karnataka high court and executive chairperson of KSLSA. Accompanying the judges were KS Bharath Kumar, registrar general of the high court, H Shashidhara Shetty, member secretary of KSLSA, and Sanjiv Pandey, member secretary of NALSA. The dignitaries also inaugurated a computer laboratory established under the 'Cells to Skills' initiative with support from RV College of Engineering. The lab is aimed at equipping inmates with digital literacy and vocational skills as part of rehabilitation efforts.

The dignitaries also visited the prison's women's wing, interacted with inmates, and inspected the recently established creche for children of incarcerated women. They also met the children and appreciated the initiative. The visit coincided with a programme on 'right of parole, remission and release under poor prisoners scheme', organised by NALSA, KSLSA, and the department of prisons and correctional services.

TOI

NIMHANS INITIATIVE: The centre was launched by Supreme Court judge Justice Vikram Nath during a visit to the prison Sunday

COMMUNITY SPIRIT shines till the end

Vindhya.Pabolu@timesofindia.com

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar

JP Nagar bid farewell to Happy Streets Sunday as the streets came alive one last time with an unmistakable sense of community. **The Times of India** initiative, presented by Bhima Jewellers, wrapped up, bringing together residents of all ages for a morning filled with movement, music, art, culture, and pure joy.

Step Nation set the tone with a soulful veena instrumental followed by a children's group dance that drew cheers and smiles from the crowd. Swingers Dance Inc kept the momentum going, turning the open street into a dance floor. Let's Move Dance Academy and Rhythm Star Academy added to the spectacle, with residents dancing to the beats.

For the young, Aryan Martial Arts brought discipline and dynamism, while Vijaya Cultural Academy showcased the richness of India's cultural heritage through performances. Mic & Melody and From Mug to Mic brought performances that fostered a sense of community among the audience, while My India Quest by QShala added a fun, quiz-driven twist — reminding residents how much there is to discover about their own country.

FINAL HURRAH: JP Nagar bid an enthusiastic farewell to Happy Streets as residents came together to celebrate the final edition with music, dance, art, and wellness activities Sunday

BHIMA presents HAPPY streets — OUR ROADS. OUR WAY.

Falun Dafa and Heartfulness offered participants a moment to pause, breathe, and reconnect with themselves, a gentle counterpoint to the lively performances around them and a reminder that a happy street is also a mindful one.

The art zone was a world of its own. Art Attic hosted interactive workshops for children and adults alike, including keychain making, bookmark designing, and self-portrait sketching — activities that blended playfulness with personal expression, sending families home with memories they had quite literally made with their own hands.

Adding a meaningful civic flavour to the morning, Postcrossing Welfare Society of India, led by Col Akhil Kumar, set up a charming philately stall celebrating stamps and postcard writing. Alert NGO brought heart and purpose to the finale, reminding the community that happy streets are built by the people who choose to show up for each other, every single day.

Kharge: Looking for fast-paced, inclusive leader

▸ Continued from page 1

After one president leaves office, another must come. A suitable person should be selected, keeping in mind social and political balance," Kharge said.

He injected a sense of urgency into the exercise, saying next elections were just 24 months away. "We are looking for a fast-paced, inclusive leader," he said.

In Bengaluru, Shivakumar cited the limited seating at Lok Bhavan — venue of oath-taking — and said the event would be live-streamed at select locations for the party cadre and leaders to watch the proceedings. "... we are making arrangements at the party's two offices — old address and Queen's Road — to live-stream the ceremony," he said, while apologising to party workers.

The CM-designate said he has extended an invite to Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi for the foundation-laying of the Congress office at Race Course Road. "Another office will be built under the leadership of Ramalinga Reddy on Queens Road. Plans and documentation are being readied for building 100 Congress offices in Karnataka," he said.

Thieves sneak into PG home at night, steal eight phones

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A peaceful night's sleep turned into a costly shock for a group of PG residents after thieves allegedly sneaked into their accommodation and stole eight mobile phones.

According to a complaint filed by cab driver Darshan, 27, the incident happened on the night of May 28 at Sai Aradhya Luxury PG for Gents on Kudlu Main Road in Hosapalya. Darshan returned to the PG accommodation at 11pm and plugged in his two phones for charging before going to bed. His friends in other rooms had also kept their phones on charge.

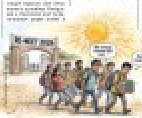
When Darshan woke up at 6am the following day, he was shocked to find that his phones were missing. A quick check revealed that six other phones belonging to other inmates were also missing.

Based on Darshan's complaint, a case was registered under BNS Section 305 (theft) at Bandepalya police station.

The PG accommodation did not have a security guard. Police examined CCTV footage and found two thieves entering the building and exiting after committing the theft. The students had left the doors of their rooms unlocked.

From airports to IPL teams: Rain chaos sweeps across cities

Heatwave, Hostels And Re-NEET



Teachers Turn Counsellors

CMRIT

NAAC GRADE A++

WELCOME TO THE CMRIT OPEN DAY 2026

We invite students and parents to a day of discovery!

Programmes Offered

B.E.

MBA | MCA

Ph.D.

Join us at CMRIT Open Day 2026

+91 93429 00666

PRESIDENCY GROUP OF SCHOOLS

Powered by Discipline. Driven by Excellence. Defined by Results.

Presidency School Bangalore South | Presidency School Bangalore East | Presidency School Bangalore North | Presidency School Bangalore

10 yrs on, K'taka sees slight rise in infant mortality rate

In 2024, IMR Reached 15, Shows Study

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: After a decade of consistently reducing its infant mortality rate (IMR), Karnataka in 2024 saw a slight increase, according to the sample registration system (SRS) report released recently by the Registrar General of India.

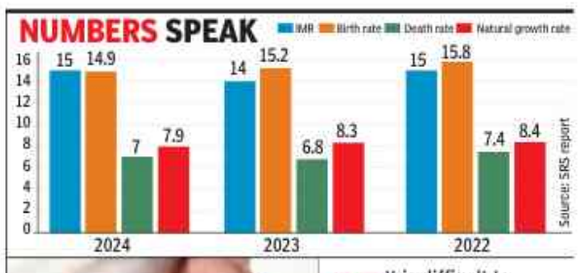
IMR is defined as the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births in a year and in a region.

Between 2013 and 2023, Karnataka's IMR reduced by 55%, reaching 14 in 2023. However, in 2024, it increased marginally to 15. Despite the rise, the state continues to remain significantly below the national average IMR of 24 and among the better-performing states in the country.

The state health department officials said the slight variation should not be mistaken for a reversal of the broader declining trend. "When the standard of care improves and mortality rates start nearing single digits, such variations are expected. They are not indicators of a change in the overall trend," Dr Basavaraj B Dhabadi, deputy director (child health), said. Adding that it is difficult to pinpoint the exact reasons for the increase reflected in the SRS report, he said, "We will continue with our developmental plans, including a comprehensive strategy for every district. We will also continue our awareness activities."

The SRS data also highlights a persistent rural-urban divide in infant mortality. While urban Karnataka recorded an IMR of 11 in 2024, the figure stood at 17 in rural areas.

The report also indicates that Karnataka is steadily moving towards a low-growth demographic phase, with the state's birth rate remaining below the national average for the third consecutive year. In comparison, India's birth rate stood significantly higher at 18.3 in 2024. The trend brings Karnataka closer to other southern states such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu, which have among the country's lowest fertility rates.



IMR is defined as the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births in a year and in a region

> It is difficult to pinpoint the exact reasons for the increase reflected in the SRS report. We will continue with our developmental plans, including a comprehensive strategy for every district. We will also continue our awareness activities
>
> **Dr Basavaraj B Dhabadi** | DEPUTY DIRECTOR (CHILD HEALTH)

The decline has been sharper in urban Karnataka. The urban birth rate fell from 14.5 in 2022 to 13.7 in 2024, while rural areas also recorded a decline from 16.8 to 15.9 during the same period. Health officials attribute the trend largely to changing lifestyles, delayed marriages and smaller family preferences, particularly in urban areas.

At the same time, Karnataka's death rate remains above the national average. The state recorded a death rate of 7 in 2024 against the national figure of 6.4. Karnataka's natural growth rate — calculated as the difference between birth and death rates — has also steadily declined from 8.4 in 2022 to 7.9 in 2024.

Dr N Rajkumar, deputy director (maternal health), said while the state's birth rate has consistently declined largely due to personal choices and changing lifestyles, fluctuations in the death rate and natural growth rate may partly be linked to post-Covid registration patterns.

"During the Covid years, deaths were higher while birth rates remained low. In 2024, the death rate may have gone up slightly because some deaths that occurred earlier could have been registered later," he said.

B'luru began victory lap way before RCB SCORED WINNING RUNS

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesofindia.com

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar & TOI

CITY ERUPTS IN JOY: RCB's title triumph turned theatres, pubs and apartments into mini-stadia as Bengalureans celebrated, with fans thronging screenings and watch parties across the city

Bengaluru: By the time the 15th over of Gujarat Titans' innings ended, Bengaluru had effectively made up its mind. With six wickets down and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) tightening their grip on the IPL 2026 final, chants of "*Ee Sala-nu Cup Namde*" (the cup is ours this time too) — replacing RCB fans' eternal chant "*Ee Sala Cup Namde*" (the cup is ours this time) — rent the air across the city.

Later in the night, when RCB completed the chase to retain the title, the celebrations merely caught up with what the city had begun believing long before the winning runs were scored. While police orders kept large public screenings and roadside celebrations off the city's streets, RCBians simply shifted the party indoors, turning theatres, pubs, and homes into their own mini-stadia.

At a PVR screening at Forum South Bengaluru on Kanakapura Road, hundreds of supporters watched the final unfold as though they were inside the stadium. Abhishek R, 27, who attended with friends, said the collective experience was what drew them out. "Watching an RCB match with friends has a different vibe altogether. We wanted the crowd atmosphere and the shared excitement," he said.

For many supporters, the occasion was about more than another cricket trophy. "RCB is not just a cricket team for me, it is pure emotion," said Kiran Ramesh, a fan from Kanakapura Road. "Winning back-to-back titles shows the attitude and consistency of this team. It feels like a victory for everyone who stayed with the franchise through every season."

Pubs across the city reported full houses. With restrictions on large public screenings in place, licensed venues became focal points for fans seeking a community experience. Sid Patil, owner of Toca Pub, said all reservations across his three outlets were booked well in advance.

Home is where the fun is

Many others preferred to celebrate from home. In Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Vasupratha KR hosted friends for a watch party. As the match tilted decisively in RCB's favour, cheers grew louder and conversations shifted from possibilities to plans for celebration. "We were enjoying every moment and hoping to see the team bring the cup home. Once the wickets kept falling, everyone knew something special was unfolding," she said.

The mood online mirrored the scenes on the ground. Even before the final result was confirmed, social media platforms were flooded with congratulatory posts. Fans revived old slogans, coined new ones, and shared photographs in RCB jerseys. One user suggested the famous slogan had now evolved from "*Ee Sala Cup Namde*" to "*Prati Sala Cup Namde* [the cup is ours every time]," reflecting the confidence of the fanbase. Anticipating large post-match gatherings, traffic police had imposed restrictions on several major flyovers and increased deployment at key locations.

For years, Bengaluru watched IPL with hope. On Sunday, it watched with expectation. And long before the final run was scored, the city knew which way the match — and the trophy — was headed.

CM-elect DK Shivakumar Sunday night said shifting of IPL title clash from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad was "an injustice to thousands of RCB fans" who were deprived of watching the match live on home ground.

Carpenter held for pal's murder a month after body found in sack

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: More than a month after a decomposing body was found stuffed inside a sack in a BDA park in north Bengaluru, Gangammagudi police arrested a carpenter for allegedly murdering his friend during a drunken quarrel and later disposing of the body with the help of his accomplices.

The accused, **Ravindar Kumar**, 30, is a native of Uttar Pradesh, while the deceased, Vidhya Prasad alias Vidhyabharathi, 45, also belonged to the same state.

Prasad, a painter, arrived in Bengaluru two months ago and stayed with Kumar in a rented house.

The case came to light on the morning of April 24, when a woman, out for a walk in Nisarga Layout, noticed a suspicious sack in the park. She alerted her husband, who rushed to the spot and found a human leg protruding from the sack. The couple informed police immediately.

Police verified footage from hundreds of CCTV cameras and found two persons riding a scooter carrying a sack on the footrest. They later traced the husband of the deceased's younger sister, and identified him as Vidhya Prasad. As the investigation progressed, police tracked down Kumar in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur on May 20. He confessed to the crime and revealed the involvement of two other accomplices, who remain absconding.

According to Kumar, on the night of April 20, the two got into a heated argument while under the influence of alcohol. During the quarrel, Kumar assaulted Prasad, repeatedly striking him on the stomach, chest, head and back. The next morning, Kumar noticed that Prasad was feeling uneasy. He went to a nearby medical store and told the shopkeeper that his friend was heavily intoxicated and vomiting and asked for tablets, including painkillers. However, the shopkeeper refused and asked for a doctor's prescription.

Later in the afternoon, upon returning from work, Kumar and his associate found Prasad dead.

Fearing arrest, they allegedly enlisted another accomplice and hatched a plan to dispose of the body.

That night, the trio allegedly stuffed the painter's body into a sack, transported it on a scooter and dumped it inside the compound of the BDA park at Nisarga Layout before fleeing. Kumar was remanded to judicial custody on May 29, and efforts are on to nab the other two accused.

Woman's murder: Sister-in-law & accomplice nabbed within 24 hrs

Ranganath K | TNN

Chikkaballapur police have solved the murder of a 23-year-old woman within 24 hours of the crime, arresting her sister-in-law and the latter's cousin for allegedly conspiring to kill her and stage it as a robbery.

The victim, Pushpalatha, a resident of Kandavarapet in Chikkaballapur, was found murdered at her home shortly after midnight on May 28. Initially, Bhavya, the twin sister of Pushpalatha's husband Bharath, told police that an unidentified intruder had entered the house, sprayed pepper spray on her, and slit Pushpalatha's throat before fleeing with her gold ornaments.

The investigation took a dramatic turn when forensic and the autopsy reports raised doubts about Bhavya's account. There were no signs of forced entry into the house and the injury on the victim's throat was found to be superficial.

Bhavya later confessed to the crime. Bhavya had been allegedly blackmailed by Lohith Kumar of Hoskote, who possessed private videos and photos of her and had already extorted Rs 6 lakh.

To meet his escalating demands, Bhavya allegedly plotted to rob Pushpalatha. Taking advantage of the family's absence, she left the door open for Lohith, who allegedly smothered Pushpalatha with a pillow before making a small cut on her throat to mimic a murder-for-gain case.

Guard used twig to create pug marks on mud around farm

▶ Continued from page 1

During investigation, a few villagers informed police that Mahadevappa, 58, who was working as a security guard in a local farm, would know about the incident.

Based on the tip off, a police probe team picked up Mahadevappa as part of its investigations. Since the deceased woman's gold and silver ornaments weighing 53gm were missing, police questioned the guard about the missing jewellery too.

GAPS IN MURDER STORY

With pressure mounting, Mahadevappa, though not a suspect yet, immediately cooked up a story of leopard attack. But it had many gaps.

During investigations, he confessed on the day of the incident, Shivarudramma sought his help to pluck leaves of a Bilvapatra tree to offer them in a local Shiva temple. As she was wearing gold and silver ornaments, he decided to rob her.

According to police, Mahadevappa informed Shivarudramma that offering sandalwood leaves is sacred to Lord Shiva and it was available in the farm where he was working. When she went with him, he pushed her into a rainwater-harvesting trench. Later, he murdered her and hid the ornaments in another trench. The suspect reportedly then picked up a twig and ran it through the mud around the farm to give an impression of pugmarks left behind by a wild animal. Police knew the area was free of any incidents of wild animal attacks. It appeared to be a murder for gain.

Five drown in Tungabhadra

Five persons drowned in the Tungabhadra River at Mantralaya on the Raichur border Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Vadla Satish, 35, from Hyderabad in Telangana; his son Yuvan Chandra, 5; Raghavendra, 28, a resident of Mantralaya; Vadla Dhanu, 23, from Yemmiganur in Kurnool district; and Sandhya, 22, from Anantapur.

The group went to the river for a swim when Yuvan Chandra reportedly started drowning. The others ventured into deeper waters to rescue him but were swept away. Aparna from Adoni, survived and immediately alerted locals. TNN

VB trial run to M'luru likely this week

Anush.S@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: A Vande Bharat Express ride between Bengaluru and Mangaluru could be right around the corner, with the much-anticipated trial runs along the ghat section taking place in June.

According to sources in South Western Railway (SWR), the zone has tentatively proposed carrying out a trial run of the self-propelling train this week. Officials in SWR's Bengaluru and Mysuru divisions have already been informed.

While the terminals for the service are yet to be finalised, the trials will take place between Yeshwantpur and Mangaluru Central stations. An eight-car version of the Vande Bharat train-inset retrofitted with an auto emergency brake (AEB) will be deployed for the tests, which will kick off early from Yeshwantpur.

As of now, a single-direction run will take around 8.5 hours, during which the train will halt at all its likely stops on the route, such as Hassan, Sakleshpur, and Subrahmanya Road.

TOI

TO BE LAUNCHED SOON

Leading up to the trials, the railways faced challenges in running the train along the route due to the ghat section. The terrain within the ghats is complex, with no approach road to the railway track.

As reported by **TOI** in Feb, despite the Railway Board sanctioning the electrified stretch between Sakleshpur and Subrahmanya Road for other goods and passenger trains, VB wasn't shown the green flag. The Research Designs and Standards Organisation flagged that the conventional VB trains aren't equipped with AEB systems. Because of the complexity of the ghat section, the 55km stretch mandates AEB, which will limit the speed to 30kmph, and brakes are automatically applied if it crosses it.

What's up next?

To solve the problem, the railways chose to retrofit the system in the existing model of VB rakes. Once the trials are completed in June, SWR will have to wait for safety certificates before launching commercial operations. During the trial run, SWR will observe the origination, termination, crew interchange, and stoppage timings, and will prepare a report before confirming a final operational timetable.

While Mangaluru is one of the most important cities in the state, the entire coastal Karnataka could benefit once the trials are completed.

Economic progress must benefit every citizen: VP

▶ Continued from page 1

The country's development journey is centred on inclusive growth and last-mile delivery. Economic progress must benefit every citizen and ensure dignity and opportunity for all," he said.

Highlighting the role of young people in nation-building, Radhakrishnan said the aspirations and energy of the country's youth would be crucial to achieving the goal of a developed India by the centenary of Independence.

Established in 2004 as a non-profit initiative, Siri was conceived as a platform for empowerment and social transformation.

Today, it directly supports over 3,000 livelihoods and indirectly benefits more than 10,000 people, most of them rural women.

On Dharmasthala Dharmadhikari D Veerendra Heggade, Radhakrishnan said his nearly six decades of service demonstrated how spirituality can be transformed into constructive social change. The honours conferred on Heggade, including Padma Vibhushan, reflected a philosophy of empowering the poor, he said.

TOI

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan at Shri Manjunatha Swamy Temple in Dharmasthala on Sunday

The Vice President described Dharmasthala as a unique centre where spirituality and service coexist, pointing to its tradition of feeding about 40,000 people daily irrespective of religion. He said institutions such as Siri show industries can be socially responsible, environmentally conscious and deeply humane, while the women associated with the organisation are true partners in nation-building.

Karnataka governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot and Dakshina Kannada MP Brijesh Chowta were present on the occasion.

2 minors riding two-wheelers die, owners to be booked

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Two school-going boys riding two-wheelers died in separate accidents in the city Saturday night.

"We are going to book separate cases against the owners of the vehicles for allowing minors to ride them. It's illegal," the officer said.

16-yr-old crushed to death by tractor

A 16-year-old boy lost his life after a speeding tractor hit the scooter he was riding and ran over him before fleeing the scene on RTO Road in Vijaya Bank Layout at 8.45pm. The deceased is Suraj Kumar, a Class 10 student and resident of Sarvabhoumanagar in BTM Layout 4th Stage. His friend, Pushkar Ram Lohar, 16, was riding pillion and escaped with injuries.

Suraj's father, Jagadish Kumar, in his complaint stated the two boys were returning home on a Honda Activa scooter belonging to his relative after refuelling at a fuel station. As the scooter approached a junction, the driver of a tractor, allegedly driving at high speed, entered from a crossroad and suddenly applied the brakes, causing the rear trailer of the tractor to swing and strike the left handlebar of the scooter. The impact threw both teenagers onto the road. The driver allegedly failed to stop and the right rear wheel of the tractor trailer ran over Suraj's head.

Bike-scooter collision

In another case, a 15-year-old boy died in an accident near Kalpalli Bridge on Old Byappanahalli Road after his bike collided with a scooter.

The deceased is Riyan M, a resident of Murphy Town in Halasuru. His mother, Anu, told police that her son was riding a bike belonged to his father when the accident occurred at 8.45pm.

Riyan was travelling from Old Madras Road towards SMVT railway station when a scooter, ridden by Arun, 32, approached from the opposite direction. The scooter rider was allegedly riding at high speed and collided with Riyan's bike. The impact threw the teenager off his motorcycle, causing him to hit his head on the road.

He was rushed to hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

9 were travelling in auto

▶ Continued from page 1

The four women were agricultural labourers returning home when the tragedy occurred.

According to Chikkaballapura SP Kushal Chousky, nine women were travelling in the auto. The victims had almost reached Bagepalli when the car hit the vehicle from behind, leading to the collision.

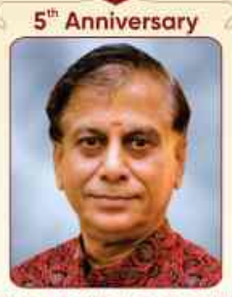
Five women — Gangadevi, Lakshmidevi, Rathnamma, Arunamma and Rajamma — suffered serious injuries and were admitted to a hospital in Chikkaballapura.

TIMES TRIBUTE
PAYING HOMAGE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL
To book your ad | Logon to: ads.timesofindia.com or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free)

5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

(10.11.1965 - 01.06.2021)
In loving memory of
N SREENIVASA REDDY B.E.
Marathahalli, Bangalore
Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure.
You will live on in the hearts and minds of the people you left behind.
Fondly remembered by,
Geetha Sreenivasa Reddy and Family

5th Anniversary



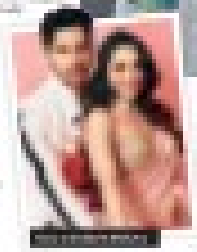
R.G. SADAGOPAN
10.06.1957 - 01.06.2021
Managing Director
Welmech Engineering Company (P) Ltd
Thermal Systems & Engineering
A visionary who forged brilliance from fire.
A generous leader and mentor, who transformed furnace manufacturing and touched countless lives.
His integrity, dedication, and vision will inspire generations to come.
From Employees, Friends and Family

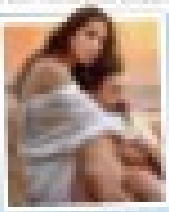
TO BOOK AN OBITUARY AD PLEASE CALL
18001205474
(Toll Free)
TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO
Ads.timesofindia.com
EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND ASSISTANCE
SCAN TO BOOK

BOOK OBITUARY ADS
To book an Obituary Ad Please contact:
Bharat
7760833522
TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO
Ads.timesofindia.com
EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND ASSISTANCE
SCAN TO BOOK

'The most successful women today are those who are supported by other women'

KIARA ADVANI





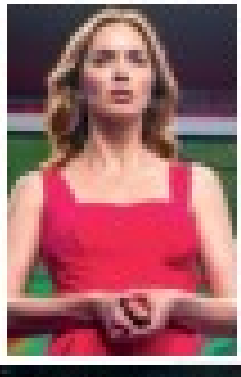
'I don't think working in the South is very different from Bollywood'

UP TO DATE | WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

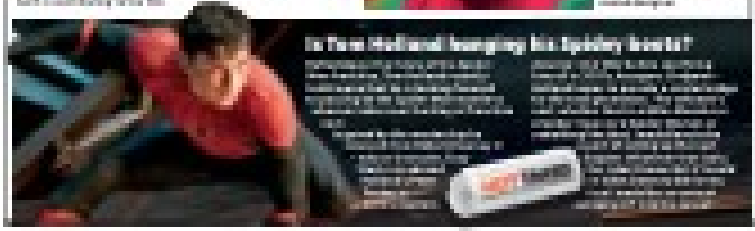
Bugatti unveils custom hypercar inspired by The Little Prince

Taylor Swift to be a part of Toy Story 3? Swifties say yes online

Emily Blunt reveals why she avoided AI recording for her film Disclosure Day



Is Tom Holland hanging his Spidey boots?



Believe it or not!

Jake travels with vibes, not suitcases

Why pests when Prada exists?

Internet asks Financial trendsetters rich-kid behaviour?

From Silos to Synergy: Indian students choose Germany's interdisciplinary path

IBC Blind Spot: Do India campuses match career ROI

Ireland visa framework offers clear pathway from higher education to jobs

New academic conversation on history of UAE

TIMES NATION
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

UNION MIN JITENDRA SINGH: INDIA HAS MOVED FROM TECH FOLLOWER TO TECH LEADER UNDER PM MODI

BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER: CONG'S GEHLOT BLAMES BJP, EC FOR ATTACK ON TMC LEADER ABHISHEK BANERJEE

The Blink

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI

Among the sights that we have got used to is the blinking cursor. It sits on our screen and does its thing. Its role is to blink, which it does. Over and over again.

An engineer named Charles Kiesling filed a patent in 1967 for a solution to a small practical problem. On early low-resolution screens, it was difficult to see where the next character would appear. He created a mark and made it blink so you could find it easily.

It is interesting how, over time, the cursor has acquired a life of its own. Not because of what was put into it. But because of how we receive it.

The heartbeat is the first thing we know. Well before we take our eventual form, there is a thudding sound, a pulse that announces the presence of life. The presence of something alive through the alternation of sound and silence. It tells us that someone is here. That we are not alone.

So the machine acquired a heartbeat it doesn't have. And we saw in the cursor what we called the blink. A human action, which in a less central way than the heartbeat, is also a sign of life. To be unblinking is to unnerve. We need things to be alive, but aliveness without a pause feels intimidating.

There is something else the cursor replicates, less obvious than the heartbeat, but perhaps more fundamental. We think of vision as continuous, a steady stream of the world arriving through the eyes. But we blink. Thirty times a minute, without noticing, without deciding, the world is briefly cancelled and reinstated. The eye does not record like a camera, which holds its gaze without flinching; we see in interrupted bursts. For significant parts of our lives, we are blind. The blink is not a flaw in vision; it is its rhythm.

The cursor blinks, and something in us recognises it. Perhaps as the shape of attention itself. We were always seeing this way, in pulses, with gaps, with the world periodically going dark and returning. The cursor simply makes that rhythm visible on the screen before us, turns our own perceptual structure into an object we can look at. Which may be why it feels less like a tool and more like a companion. It does not just mark time, it sees the way we see.

We respond to the rhythm of the blink with the feeling of accompaniment, of being in the presence of something rather than nothing. One becomes part of something, gets inserted into the rhythm of something ongoing and alive. Time takes on a form. It becomes articulate.

The cursor blinks, and something in us recognises it. Perhaps as the shape of attention itself. We were always seeing this way, in pulses, with gaps, with the world periodically going dark and returning. The cursor simply makes that rhythm visible on the screen before us, turns our own perceptual structure into an object we can look at

For the writer, the cursor is both a catalyst and a critic. It blinks encouragingly, and at other times, it seems to be asking questions steeped in disappointment. More urgent than the empty sheet of paper, more alive in its discontent.

We are not good at handling unmarked time. Look at the number of ways in which we give form to time—the watch, sundial and hourglass, the church bells, the ghanta ghar, the grandfather's clock. The whole elaborate invention of time as something measurable made of equal intervals—an absolute fabrication if there was one— is what underpins our everyday lives. The sense of passing time made concrete works almost like existential scaffolding for us.

It seems as if to be in unmarked time is to start losing the thread of our own continuity. The self requires the next moment to confirm the last one. In the gap between moments, it gets dangerously fragile. We build clocks not just because we need to know the time, but because we need the assurance that we are comfortably within a structure. That we are inside it rather than adrift somewhere adjacent to it, watching.

The cursor blinks in precisely that gap. Between the last word and the next one. Between the thought that just dissolved and the thought that hasn't formed. It marks time while we are trying to make it mean something.

On screen, we mark time in a variety of ways. We have the spinning circle which can often be exasperating, the hourglass which tells us that something is happening and the loading bar, which actually measures how much progress has been made.

Each symbol says something different. If the cursor says I'm here, the spinner says coming soon. The three dots say someone is there, fumbling thought, striving to find the right words. They simulate the moment before speech.

Time holding its breath. Unhappening poised on the brink of happening. The moment before the meaning. The held breath is like the momentary suspension of the self, till the gap is filled.

And yet, on the other hand, when time does become a blob, when we lose our bearings in it, we experience a kind of freedom that cannot be duplicated. The freedom from experiencing time is perhaps the most exhilarating of all. The pursuit of a lot of spiritual exertion is self-forgetfulness, which is another word for getting lost in the cloudy thickets of time while leaving oneself behind.

And so, the cursor blinks on. Steadied by a rhythm no one designed, accompanied by a heartbeat no one put there, held in time by a machine that has no idea what time is.

santosh365@gmail.com

Committed to implementing PM's 'JAI' vision: New CDS

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General **NS Raja Subramani** on Sunday took charge as India's top military commander. Taking over the reins from CDS Gen Anil Chauhan, who retired after holding the key post for three and a half years, General Subramani said, "We are committed to implementing the PM's vision of JAI — Jointness, Atmanirbharta and Innovation."

He said transformation of the armed forces and organisational reforms to enhance tri-services synergy and integration will be his primary focus. "We will accelerate the development, induction and integration of indigenous weapons in our armed forces," said the CDS, widely known as an expert on Pakistan and China, while addressing the media.

"Our armed forces consistently demonstrated professionalism and operational decisiveness in safeguarding our national interests. We are committed to protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country," he said, adding "innovation in thought and action" will drive the capability development of India's armed forces.

"Greater collaboration between the military, industry, academia, startups and the research ecosystem will be the key enabler for modernisation," he said.

The new CDS's key objectives will be to accelerate and roll out India's ambitious military theatreisation plan — creating integrated theatre commands to improve coordination among the Indian Army, Navy and IAF.

Alongside driving structural and tri-service reforms, his specific tasks include enhancing synergies among the three services in areas such as operations, logistics, transport, training and communications.

In his career spanning over 40 years, Gen Subramani served across a wide spectrum of conflict and terrain profiles and held a host of command, staff and instructional appointments.

Navy chief vows to maintain highest level of operational readiness

New Delhi: After taking charge as Navy chief on Sunday, Admiral Krishna Swaminathan pledged his commitment to ensure that the Indian Navy maintains the highest levels of operational readiness and combat effectiveness for protecting the nation's security and economic interests.

He took charge from Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, who led the Navy for over two years. Thanking the country's top leadership for entrusting him with the responsibility, Admiral Swaminathan called the post the "highest honour and privilege" of his life. He said the Indian Navy remains vigilant in protecting national interests and is actively deployed in a security environment that is challenging, complex, and unpredictable. TNN

Kalyan Banerjee claims attack by goons, Mamata blames BJP

Spontaneous Expression Of Public Anger: BJP

Falguni Banerjee | TNN

Chanditala (Hooghly): A day after Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee was attacked in West Bengal's Sonapur area, the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha, Kalyan Banerjee, alleged that he suffered a head injury following an assault in his own constituency in Hooghly district on Sunday.

Kalyan was walking towards Chanditala police station to submit a memorandum protesting the assault on Abhishek when a group of people waved black flags and called him a "thief". The MP claimed he was struck by a projectile, causing the head injury. Holding a cloth to the back of his head, he fell on the road and later staged a dharna outside the police station, accusing police of inaction.

"Suddenly, 10-15 goons shouted slogans. They abused me, but I kept proceeding, and at that time, a stone was thrown at my head. There was blood in my kurta and pajama. All this happened in front of Bengal police. I had fallen on the road, and that time, a CRPF person came and rescued me," the MP told reporters.

CLASH FALLOUT: TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee claimed he was struck by a projectile, causing a head injury in Hooghly district on Sunday

Former CM and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee accused BJP of "murdering democracy", alleging that the saffron party orchestrated the attacks on Kalyan and her nephew Abhishek. "Yesterday, BJP supporters brutally attacked Trinamool Lok Sabha floor leader Abhishek Banerjee. The terrifying videos are in the public domain. Today, our chief whip in Lok Sabha, Kalyan Banerjee, was also a victim of a planned BJP attack," Mamata wrote on X.

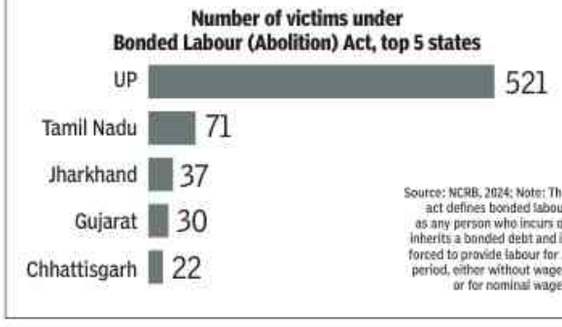
Hooghly police registered a case against 10 to 15 unidentified persons for voluntarily causing grievous hurt, attempt to murder and intentional insult. A senior police officer, meanwhile, said the preliminary findings did not match Kalyan Banerjee's account.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Bonded labour: It's not yet a thing of the past

UP had the lion's share (72%) of the country's victims of bonded labour in 2024. The practice, outlawed half a century ago, persists. That year, 657 cases (involving 727 victims) were recorded across India under the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act

Number of victims under Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, top 5 states



Source: NCRB, 2024; Note: The act defines bonded labour as any person who incurs or inherits a bonded debt and is forced to provide labour for a period, either without wages or for nominal wages

HACK OF THE DAY RESET A SHARED PHOTO ALBUM LINK

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps you stop an old Google Photos album link from continuing to circulate after a wedding, school event, office party, or family function

WHAT TO DO: Use Google Photos shared album controls to remove people, restrict access, or reset link sharing

STEPS:

1. **Open** the shared album in Google Photos
2. **Tap** the sharing or options menu
3. **Review** who has access to the album
4. **Remove** people who should no longer see it
5. **Reset** link sharing if the old link has gone too far

NOTE: This is useful after events where album links get forwarded widely. Resetting the link gives you a fresh start

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

Prices of 30 medicines capped, including some for diabetes, BP

Anuja.Jaiswal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Medicines used for diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, infections and women's health are among 30 drug formulations for which National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed retail prices, a move that could significantly reduce treatment costs for patients who depend on long-term medication.

The latest notification covers several drugs commonly prescribed for chronic illnesses that affect millions of Indians, many of which require long-term or lifelong treatment.

The formulations by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority include antidiabetic combinations containing empagliflozin, sitagliptin, metformin, teneligliptin and dapagliflozin; heart medicines containing atorvastatin, telmisartan, cilnidipine and metoprolol; antibiotics for infections; pain-relief drugs; vitamin supplements; and medicines used for women's health conditions. Notification fixes maximum retail price at which these formulations can be sold, excluding GST, and manufacturers will not be allowed to market them above the notified rates.

Key formulations include empagliflozin-sitagliptin-metformin tablets priced at Rs 14.88 per tablet, sitagliptin-glimepiride-metformin tablets at Rs 11.91 per tablet, teneligliptin-dapagliflozin tablets at Rs 10.17 per tablet and atorvastatin-fenofibrate tablets at Rs 18.46 per tablet. Tacrolimus capsules used by organ transplant patients have been priced at Rs 127 per capsule. List also includes vitamin D3 oral solutions, calcium and vitamin supplements, cefpodoxime-clavulanate antibiotic suspensions for children and norethisterone acetate tablets for women's health.

Industry representatives said the notified prices for several commonly used medicines are lower than prevailing market rates. However, market prices may vary across brands and strengths.

Rajiv Singhal, general secretary of All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD), welcomed the move and said consumers are likely to gain from revised prices in 60-90 days, once existing stocks in supply chain are cleared and the revised-MRP stock reaches market.

Retain 60% of Agniveers in armed forces: Ex-CoAS

Sandip.Dighe
@timesofindia.com

Pune: The current retention policy of Agnipath scheme is not ideal for operational requirements of the armed forces, and 50-60% of trained Agniveers must be absorbed into the regular cadre, former Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande (retd) said.

He was speaking at 'Pune Samvaad', organised by a private organisation in collaboration with the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. He said only 25% of one batch of Agniveers will be retained after four years of service under the existing policy, and the remaining will have to leave. "The proportion is not ideal for our military, because many units are constantly deployed in border areas. Ideally, 50-60% should be absorbed from an operational point of view."

Meritorious athletes sidelined: AIU chief

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Association of Indian Universities, already under scanner over alleged financial and administrative irregularities, is now facing accusations of a potentially much larger scandal involving certification of sportspersons, with AIU president Vinay Kumar Pathak alleging that deserving university athletes may have been denied recognition and opportunities for years through systemic manipulation within the administration.

Pathak, who initiated disciplinary action after the controversy surrounding India's participation in the 2025 Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU) World University Games in Germany, claimed that entrenched interests were resisting efforts to clean up the system. "This action has shaken up corrupt practices. There is a need for further investigation into the certification scam, which has deprived meritorious sportspersons from Indian universities for long," Pathak told **TOI**.

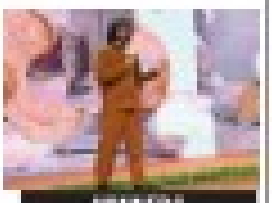
The immediate trigger was disciplinary proceedings launched against suspended AIU joint secretary Baljit Singh Sekhon over lapses linked to the World University Games. In a memorandum dated April 13, AIU stated that selected athletes, "including six badminton players and certain athletics participants", were not included in official entry lists within prescribed timelines, leading to denial of accreditation and exclusion from competition despite travelling to the venue.

The memorandum described the episode as reflecting "gross negligence, lack of due diligence and failure to discharge assigned responsibilities". An inquiry committee later concluded that Sekhon "bear responsibility for most aspects of the reported mismanagement in FISU WUG 2025" and cited "dereliction of duties, failure to discharge duties, breach of responsibility, nonfeasance, negligence, failure to act, lapse in judgement".

The inquiry also widened beyond procedural lapses at the Games. The committee recommended vigilance scrutiny of "suspicious financial credit transactions" and examination of foreign travel undertaken by officials over the previous two years. In a communication to the additional chief secretary regarding a PIL filed by Jaipal, alleging violation of bye-laws and challenging his continuation as AIU chief, Pathak said he launched a clean-up drive immediately after assuming office and constituted high-level committees to probe "deep-rooted institutional lapses".

CHAMPIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY

YOUNG CLIMATE CHAMPIONS

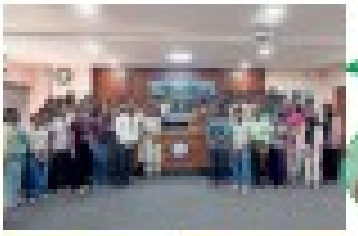


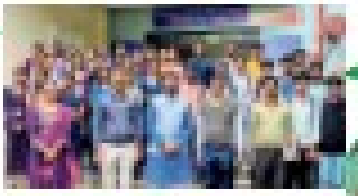
PROGRAMME OUTREACH

25 + 3 UTs	750	25,000	
4.5 Lakh+	250	200	50

YOUNG MINDS, GREEN IDEAS: THE RISE OF INDIA'S CLIMATE HEROES

The Young Climate Champions Programme continued to grow its impact this year, reaching a wider network of climate-conscious youth across the country





WINNERS

CLOSE WATCH

Are hailstones increasing in size? New research from Peking University says climate change may make damaging hailstones more common, especially in Europe. Tropical and subtropical regions could experience reduced hail risk

SCIENCE OF THE TIMES

QUICK QUIZ

It's been 40 years since the meltdown at Chernobyl, in April, 1986. The Soviets kept the event a secret for nearly two days. Which country, nearly 1,000 km away from the nuclear plant, was the first to detect radiation in the air? Send answers to **scienceofthetimes@timesofindia.com**

Pentagon's UFO Files Reignite Interest In Strange Sightings & Interstellar Travel

Could Aliens Reach Earth? Physics Says It Won't Be Easy

Kai James

On May 22, 2026, the Pentagon released a second batch of declassified photos and videos showing what appear to be unexplained flying objects. But to assess the plausibility of alien visitors, it's necessary to understand the obstacles that an extraterrestrial vessel would need to overcome to reach Earth.

There is no evidence of alien life in our solar system. So visitors would likely have to come from another star system in the Milky Way. Proxima Centauri, the star closest to our Sun, is about 4.25 light-years away. Since only a fraction of stars are thought to host intelligent life, the nearest alien civilization — if one exists — is surely much farther away than Proxima

Here's the problem. No object can reach or exceed light speed (roughly 3,00,000 km per second). But well before that threshold, engineering constraints begin to assert themselves. Limited fuel and potential for structural damage will restrict a craft's speed.

There is no universally accepted upper limit on interstellar flight speeds, but studies tend to converge around 30,000 km/s — 10% of the speed of light — as a realistic cruise velocity. At this speed, a journey of 10 light years will take roughly 100 years.

Interstellar space offers some advantages. Lack of atmosphere means there is no drag. So when the ship reaches its cruise speed, it can shut its propulsion system and coast to the final destination. But lack of atmosphere also means there is nothing to slow the ship down. Ideally, the propulsion system would have to both accelerate and decelerate. One propulsion strategy employs a high-powered laser to push a ship through space. The beam is projected from a stationary array near the home planet and directed toward a thin reflective sail attached to the ship. The beam's photons exert radiation pressure on the sail, propelling the ship forward.

This approach requires no onboard fuel. But the energy needed to operate the laser would be staggering. Beamed propulsion also provides no mechanism for deceleration. At best, this method could be deployed as part of a hybrid strategy that uses a separate system for deceleration.

A more practical solution is rocket propulsion. Rockets generate thrust by expelling high-velocity exhaust. By reversing the direction of the exhaust, rockets can also be used to slow the ship down. But their main disadvantage is that rockets must carry their own fuel in addition to passengers, habitat and life-sustaining systems. In other words, you need fuel to transport your fuel.

All human missions have used chemical rocket propulsion, but a craft travelling at 30,000 km/s would need more fuel than all the mass in the observable universe.

Antimatter propulsion is theoretically the most efficient option. When antimatter comes into contact with ordinary matter, the two undergo mutual annihilation and 100% of their combined mass is converted into energy. This makes it possible to achieve the same cruise velocity — one-tenth the speed of light — with fuel accounting for less than a quarter of the ship's total mass.

The downside is that antimatter is extremely unstable and difficult to make. To date, particle physicists have produced less than 20 billionths of a gram of antimatter. Moreover, these particles had lifespans lasting only fractions of a second and a price tag in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Nuclear fusion offers a more viable alternative. Fusion engines remain aspirational, but they could, in theory, produce 10 million times more energy per kilogram than chemical rockets.

Still, a fusion-powered ship with a cruise velocity of 30,000 km/s would need fuel equivalent to 150 times the mass of the ship itself.

We now come to ship design. Interstellar space has a sparse smattering of microscopic cosmic dust. At 30,000 km/s, the tiny grains would hit the hull with the energy of a .22-calibre bullet. Surviving the onslaught would require no less than a fortress with complex shielding, increasing the total mass of the ship and driving up fuel use.

No single law of physics prohibits an interstellar voyage to Earth. But the combined effects of hundreds of extreme, often conflicting engineering requirements may render it physically infeasible.

It's also possible that alien civilizations have discovered novel technologies that outperform anything currently known to humans. But like the examples discussed here, any such technology will inevitably encounter its own engineering hurdles.

The writer is a professor of aerospace engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. This article first appeared in The Conversation

THREE DOTS SEEN IN APOLLO 17 PHOTO MAY BE OBJECTS, SAYS US GOVT...

... WHAT MADE THIS PHOTO UNIQUE

In the new batch of 'Pentagon files' is this 1972 photo taken by Apollo 17 crew. The 3 dots, US govt now says, is potentially the result of a "physical object". The image has been in public domain for years. It first drew interest for two key reasons:

1 It was shot from the lunar surface, where lack of atmosphere quickly rules out birds, cloud formations and planes, all of which have been confused for "UFOs"

2 Photo shows dots in a triangular formation, without apparent lens flare. Typically, such visual artefacts tend to have a halo of bright light around them

'FLASHES OF LIGHT': WHEN NASA PROBED A MYSTERY

- For years, astronauts have described seeing light flashes while out in space. Apollo 11's Buzz Aldrin was among the first to report them. Later, crews of Apollos 14, 15 and 17 all reported flashes
- Nasa launched a probe. A major clue would come when a **few astronauts said they saw the lights even when their eyes were shut.** It has since been theorised what the crews experienced was 'Cherenkov radiation', when a charged particle travels through a medium like water, in this case the fluid in the astronauts' eyes
- But tests would show Cherenkov radiation was the culprit in only a minority of cases. Other suspects were heavy cosmic ray particles that directly affect retinas of astronauts

"I was trying to go to sleep with all the lights out. I observed what I thought were little flashes inside the cabin, spaced a couple of minutes apart

— APOLLO 11 ASTRONAUT BUZZ ALDRIN DURING HIS TECHNICAL DEBRIEFING WITH NASA IN 1969

UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS

Why whale sharks gather in a war-torn oil corridor

Govind.Vijaykumar
@timesofindia.com

The whale shark is so rare that estimates suggest less than 0.1% of people will ever see one in the wild. But near the Strait of Hormuz, and along the Persian Gulf, where tensions have flared, hundreds of them gather every summer to feed on fish spawn.

This annual congregation had initially surprised scientists. The waters of the Persian Gulf were too shallow and the region too hot for whale sharks. Summer water surface temperatures can hit 35°C; the giant fish prefer 21-30°C.

Scientists would later discover it was an interesting sea effect that was drawing the fish to the region, one triggered by how the Gulf exchanged its water with the Indian Ocean.

During high evaporation in the summer, the Gulf's waters turn extremely salty and start to move along the seabed, before emptying out into the ocean through the Strait of Hormuz. On top of this undercurrent enters the lighter, less saline water from the Indian Ocean, forming a double-decker current — high salinity at the bottom, but less salty water on top.

At the same time, the currents maintain cooler waters at depth in the central part of the Gulf, creating what is called a hydrographic front. This leads to a marine ecosystem where mixing of nutrients from both seas provides an abundance of food for the species in the area, and perfect spawning conditions for tuna. It's the tuna that are ultimately responsible for what scientists have described as one of the most spectacular events on Earth — the gathering of as many as 400 whale sharks.

"Millions of these tuna fish storm into the Gulf and the sharks eat their eggs," says Steffen Bach, a senior researcher at the Qatar Whale Shark Research project in Doha and at the Department for Environmental Impact Assessment at Rambøll, Copenhagen.

Bach adds the whale sharks of the Gulf show up mainly near the Al Shaheen Oil Field, one of the world's largest offshore oil fields.

"They use the Strait of Hormuz as a transit corridor, just like ships," he says.

But the entire region is under threat as missiles and drones fly at oil tankers.

"Imagine trying to breathe through a straw that has been covered in a thick layer of sticky glue. That's what oil does to the gills of a fish," says Seithikurippu Pandi-Perumal, a distinguished professor of research at Chandigarh University.

Prof Pandi-Perumal says an oil spill in the Strait would also spread very quickly.

"The reason is its narrowness, only 33km at its narrowest point. Within hours, the oil would be driven toward the shores of Oman and Iran due to strong currents and heavy ship traffic."

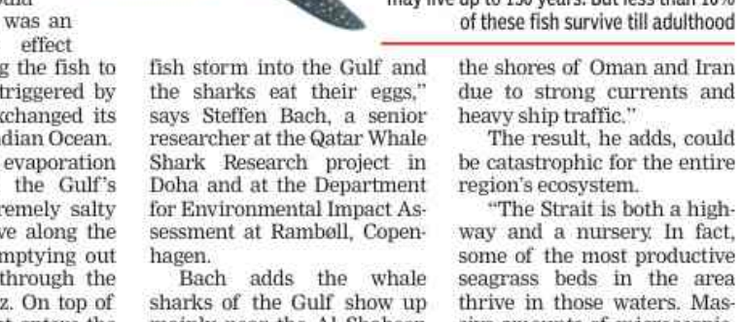
The result, he adds, could be catastrophic for the entire region's ecosystem.

"The Strait is both a highway and a nursery. In fact, some of the most productive seagrass beds in the area thrive in those waters. Massive amounts of microscopic, photosynthetic phytoplanktons ('grasses of the sea' or 'plant drifters'), the foundation of the food web, could perish," he says.

Ironically, the blockade on the surface brings some good news to the whale sharks below. Traffic is down — 120 vessels used to pass through the Strait, which is down to 20, according to reports.

"Many whale sharks I saw bore scars from propeller strikes. So, in a way, this blockade has made the Strait safer for them," says Bach.

"Still, an oil spill where they feed would spell disaster for the tuna and whale sharks. The tuna eggs will most certainly die and the sharks may be exposed to toxic effects and clogging of their gills."



Whale Sharks can reach 60 feet in length and may live up to 150 years. But less than 10% of these fish survive till adulthood

QUICK QUIZ ON MAY 18 Our question: An Italian luxury watchmaker has unveiled a timepiece built using a dense, corrosion-resistant metal that's also used to make nuclear control rods. It's the first watch in history to use this material. Name the metal. **Answer:** Hafnium

9 yrs on, man given life term for murder acquitted

Bhopal/Jabalpur: Madhya Pradesh HC has acquitted a person sentenced to life in 2017 for murdering a 12-year-old boy on the outskirts of Bhopal. Observing that the trial court judge "lost track of the case and was intent to convict the accused by hook or by crook", HC said evidence and witnesses produced in the court neither complete the chain of evidence to prove the accused guilty beyond doubt nor do they seem credible. The court noted that there is evidence to show the presence of the accused in a factory from 8:30am till 5pm on the day of the crime. TNN

Pitch-roller crushes 15-yr-old training at Maha cricket camp

Kolhapur: A 15-year-old's dream of becoming a cricketer ended in a horrific accident when he was crushed to death under a heavy pitch roller, being pulled by a group of children without supervision, during a cricket summer camp in Barshi town in Maharashtra's Solapur district on Saturday morning.

Maharashtra's Barshi city police filed a case against two coaches under culpable homicide not amounting to murder charge

The Barshi city police registered a case against two coaches and two organisations, including a local cricket association, under Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the BNS. No arrests were made till late on Sunday evening.

Aarav, alias Viren Chaudhary, a Class 9 student preparing to enter Class 10, enrolled in the camp after persuading his father to sign him up for formal training. Police said the incident occurred around 7.30am when children at the camp were instructed to level the pitch using a heavy roller, equipment typically meant to be handled under supervision.

Mahesh Galgate, SI with Barshi PS, said: "Aarav slipped, and the heavy roller went over him. He was taken to a hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. His father claimed that there was no supervisor to monitor the children and, that, this amounted to gross negligence."

Being passive spectator no reason for 'cruelty' FIR against in-laws: HC

Mumbai: Bombay HC has quashed a criminal case against in-laws of a woman, saying that to not react, or a refusal to actively take sides of daughter-in-law or being a passive spectator, can't be the basis to invoke "cruelty to wife" offence, **reports Swati Deshpande**.

"A parent or relative, caught between the crossfire of allegations by and between two adults in a relationship of marriage, and who chooses to remain quiet, cannot be roped in an offence under Section 498A of Indian Penal Code," said Justice R R Bhonsale in May 8 ruling. The cruelty has to be a wilful act intended to drive a woman to commit suicide or inflict grave injury to life, limb or health, as envisaged under IPC Section 498A and none other, HC said.

HC upholds census duty order for LIC staff, bins union's plea

Prayagraj: Allahabad high court has dismissed a petition filed by an LIC employees' association against govt orders assigning staff of Centre-run insurance giant census duties as enumerators and supervisors, **reports Rajesh Kumar Pandey**. HC found no illegality in the orders, emphasising that "persons engaged in census duties are deemed to be public servants within the meaning of IPC and any slackness or neglect on their part is punishable under the provisions of Census Act, 1948, read with IPC".

"The writ petition contains only a vague prayer seeking quashing of the decision to engage employees of LIC for census work and no specific challenge has been made to any particular order," HC observed.

3 days after Eid murder of Ghaziabad boy, accused teen killed in encounter

Ghaziabad: The teenager accused of fatally stabbing a 17-year-old boy in Ghaziabad's Khoda Colony on Bakrid was killed in a police encounter early Sunday, capping nearly three days of grief, anger and tension in the neighbourhood off NH-9, **reports Avishek Kumar**.

Police said Asad, 19, the prime suspect, was tracked to Vasundhara and died in hospital after being hit by a bullet in the leg during an "exchange of fire" with cops. **TOI** is withholding the victim's name because he was a minor. Police said when Asad who was riding with an associate was signalled to stop, he tried to flee and then opened fire at cops.

TIMES interact

real estate

FARM HOUSES

HILLTOP FARM WITH AN UNINTERRUPTED VIEW OF VALLEYS.FOR SALE IN WAYANAD.CONT 7338630606

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

ANJANAPURA

SALE BDA Site No 308 A'pura 5th Blk SW Corner 40x60 Commercial @20k sqft & Site 110 3 A Blk, @15sqft NE Corner call Owner Rajesh 98451 67755

HSR LAYOUT

HSR Rent Com 17000 SQ FT Indpdt Bldg On 50X80. Calm Area Bsmnt Parking, Cafeteria - IT Sector Ph-9591997007 / 9845081002

FOR SALE

BANGALORE

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE ON MAIN ROAD ,NORTH EAST CORNER PROPERTY. NEAR MANYATHA TECH PARK 5049 Sq Ft. Contact :7406175115

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Saba Asad Mirza Asadulla Shamsher Baig,R/o No 19, 4th Cross, M D Block, Madina Shadi Hall, Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560003 have changed my name to Saba Asad for all purposes.

I, Eswari S,W/O:Nagaraja naidu krishnamaneni,R/O: A403, mims residency ,thanisandra main road, sampigehalli, Blr-560064. Have changed my name to Eswari krishnamaneni.

I, K Fukueriamma, R/o #186, 8th ward Jb Halli road rampura pin 577540. Changed my name as Fakruma bi W/O Koli Nabi Sab.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. All creatives marked as Advertorial, Spotlight and Promotional Features are to be treated as Advertisements. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

TIMES interact

EDUCATION

ROL
Rs 3000/- for 5 lines

CD SINGLE COLUMN
Rs 980/- per scm (Min 3x5)

PACKAGE
TOI KA + TOIBG Sunday + VK All + ETBG + Mirror

For further information, Contact:9686541712

25001/277/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online – RWCCESNG – 10 of 2026-27, Letter No- 3086 /Dtd. 26.05.26
e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work: Bridge Work
2. Class of Contractor: As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion: As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects: As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of opening of tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-10 of 2026-27	03.06.2026 11:00 AM	23.06.2026 5:00 PM	22.06.2026 5:00 PM	24.06.2026 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/- **Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh**

OIPR-25001/25133/1/26-27/0013

13001/699/2627

Bhubaneswar Development Authority
AKASH SHOVA BUILDING, PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU MARG
BHUBANESWAR- 751 001, ODISHA
Telephone: (0674) 2396437, 2390998, 2392801, FAX. 0674- 2390633

No. 11494 /BDA, Bhubaneswar, Date. 27.05.2026
BDA-ESTate2-ALLOT-0081-2025

NOTICE

Applications are hereby invited for sale of land (freehold) measuring Ac. 2.134 dec. pertaining to Plot No. 545/6731, Khata No.493/689 under mouza Patia, Bhubaneswar, on "as is where is basis" through e-auction to be held on **14.07.2026.**

Mouza	Plot No.	Total area of the plot (in Acres)	Upset Price of the Plot (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs)
Patia	545/6731	Ac. 2.134	Rs. 69,10,00,000/-	Rs.6,91,00,000/-

Details of the plot and scheme brochure are available in the BDA website **www.bda.gov.in.** The receipt of online application will commence at 11.00 A.M. on 01.06.2026 and will continue till 11.59 P.M. on 30.06.2026. Duly filled in online applications for participating in the e-auction must be submitted to the Bhubaneswar Development Authority by 30.06.2026 with requisite earnest money.
Online application starts - 11.00 A.M. on 01.06.2026
Closes - 11.59 P.M. on 30.06.2026
Online auction on 11.00 A.M. on 14.07.2026

Sd/-
Secretary-cum-Member Estate
Bhubaneswar Development Authority

No. 11495 /BDA, Bhubaneswar, Date. 27.05.2026
BDA-ESTate2-ALLOT-0081-2025

NOTICE

Applications are hereby invited for sale of land (Leasehold) measuring area Ac. 6.448 dec. pertaining to Plot No. 258/11773 (Pt), 267/11775, and 309/11774 under mouza Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, on "as is where is basis" through e-auction to be held on **14.07.2026.**

Mouza	Plot No.	Total area of the plot (in Acres)	Upset Price of the Plot (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs)
Chandrasekhar Pur	258/11773(pt) 267/11775 309/11774	Ac. 6.448	Rs. 170,86,00,000/-	Rs. 17,08,60,000/-

Details of the plot and scheme brochure are available in the BDA website **www.bda.gov.in.** The receipt of online application will commence at 11.00 A.M. on 01.06.2026 and will continue till 11.59 P.M. on 30.06.2026. Duly filled in online applications for participating in the e-auction must be submitted to the Bhubaneswar Development Authority by 30.06.2026 with requisite earnest money.
Online application starts - 11.00 A.M. on 01.06.2026
Closes - 11.59 P.M. on 30.06.2026
Online auction on 11.00 A.M. on 14.07.2026

Sd/-
Secretary-cum-Member Estate
Bhubaneswar Development Authority

OIPR - 13001/13033/1/26-27/0043

KARNATAKA STATE MINERALS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office : TTMC 'A' Block 5th Floor, BMTC Building, KH Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027.
Phone: 080-22278813/14/15/16, Fax : 080-22213172
Website: https://ksmc.karnataka.gov.in

SMCL/Mech/EPMC/537-III/2026-27/660 Date: 29.05.2026

e-TENDER INVITATION

KSMCL invites e-Tender for selection for providing facilitation services for selection of EPMC for installation of Downhill pipeline conveyor system for transportation of Subbarayanahalli Iron Ore Mine at Sandur Tq, Ballary District

CALENDER OF EVENTS

Downloading of Tender document from e-portal	From 01.06.2026
Last date for submission of Tender through e-portal	30.06.2026 Up to 5.00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	02.07.2026 At 11.00 AM
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rs. Ten Lakh Only)

Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement GOK Platform website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Department MML. Contact for any support e-procurement Call helpdesk: 080-46010000/ 68948777.

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER (A&V)

DIPR/CP/903/AKAR/2026-27

25001/275/2627

Email ID : serw _sundargarh@gmail.com

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNDARGARH
Bid Identification No. Online-PMGSY/RWCCESNG- 01 of 2026-27
Letter No. 3177 // Date : 30.05.2026

1. Name of the work : Construction of Road and CD work under PMGSY Programme.
2. Total No. of Packages : **1 No.** individual package (Balance Work)
3. Estimated Cost of individual packages : Rs. 257.40 lakh
4. Period of completion : Nine Calendar months
5. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Packages	Availability of tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of tender On-line for bidding To	Date & Time of Technical Bid opening	Date & Time of Financial Bid opening
1	2	3	4	5		6
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	PMGSY/ RWCCESNG-01 of 2026-27	1 No	05.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	23.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	24.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated separately

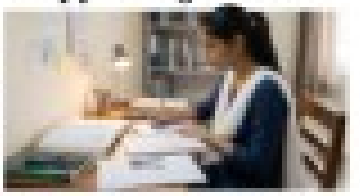
- Further details can be seen from the website : **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh
OIPR - 25001/25133/1/26-27/0012

World now needs experienced creators, not just coders

Industry 5.0 demands problem-solvers, varsities are producing vanilla graduates

Stop using Board marks to decide on appearing for JEE



Know who you are before you decide what to study

Kerala may transfer ADM death probe to CBI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

T'puram/ Kozhikode: Congress-led UDF govt in Kerala is planning to hand over the case related to the alleged abetment of Kannur ADM Naveen Babu's suicide to the CBI. CPM on Sunday criticised the move as "politically motivated". Babu's family had recently met chief minister V D Satheesan and sought an urgent CBI investigation into the politically sensitive suicide abetment case. During the meeting, they reportedly expressed strong dissatisfaction with the ongoing police investigation.

The govt is yet to issue a formal notification granting consent to CBI to investigate the case, which is set to become the first major probe handed over to the Central agency since UDF returned to office. State police have already filed a chargesheet in the case, with former Kannur district panchayat president and CPM functionary P P Divya named as the sole accused.

Divya is accused of levelling corruption allegations against the ADM in Kannur, allegedly driving him to die by suicide at his official residence the following morning.

CPM's Kannur district secretary K K Ragesh criticised the state govt's plan to hand over the probe to CBI. He pointed out that both Kerala high court and Supreme Court had earlier rejected the demand for a CBI investigation. "Chief minister V D Satheesan is not above the courts," he said.

Ragesh said after the family sought a reinvestigation, the inquiry conducted as per the court's directive found that certain aspects had not been considered by the vigilance department. HC had then directed vigilance officials to examine those aspects as well. "In such a situation, there is no doubt that ordering a CBI probe, which was even rejected by Supreme Court, is a purely political move," he said.

Quack kills woman during C-sec in UP

Varanasi: A 30-year-old ASHA (accredited social health activist) worker died in UP's Sonbhadra Saturday after a quack allegedly performed a C-section on her at a hospital that had already sealed, **reports Rajeev Dikshit**. The newborn has survived. After the botched surgery, the accused and his associates allegedly fled without stitching her abdomen. An FIR has been lodged against hospital operators. Services of operators of the ambulance that took her to the hospital have been suspended.

Job scam busted in UP, 453 Nepal youths freed; 10 held, kingpin on run

Lucknow/Gorakhpur: A cross-border job scam as busted in eastern UP after police and intelligence agencies rescued 453 young men and women from Nepal during an ongoing crackdown on what officials described as an illegal recruitment and training network operating out of Kushinagar districtbarely 20km from India-Nepal border. They returned home Sunday, **report Pathikrit Chakraborty & Arjumand Bano**.

Ten people were arrested, while the alleged mastermind is on the run. Those arrested include seven men from Nepal. Crackdown began after victims reached out to Nepal embassy officials in Delhi through social media some time ago, alleging they had been lured across the border by promises of jobs and education, only to be confined and milked for money.

That airport reel could now land you on no-fly list

Nagpur: Shooting reels, vlogs, or any social media content at airports may now cost you your right to fly. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued strict guidelines prohibiting unauthorised photography and videography in sensitive areas of airports across India, **reports Sumukh Kulkarni**.

The restrictions aim to prevent accidental recording and circulation of sensitive operational information.

Offenders may face financial penalties and, in serious cases, have their names recommended for inclusion in the DGCA's No-Fly List, resulting in a temporary or permanent ban on air travel, depending on the severity of the violation. Authorities may also confiscate mobile phones, cameras for probe.

इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय
(केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय)
प्रयागराज-211002 उ0प्र0 (भारत)
UNIVERSITY OF ALLAHABAD
(A Central University)
Prayagraj-211002, U.P. (India)

Applications are invited for the post of **Controller of Examination**, University of Allahabad (A Central University) vide ADVT/AU/NT/02/2026. The detailed advertisement and instructions are available on official website of the University (**https://www.allduniv.ac.in**).

Important dates:-
Start of submission of form:- **01.06.2026**
End of submission of form :- **23.06.2026**

Registrar

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), गुवाहाटी
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), GUWAHATI
(भारत सरकार के स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के अधीन एक स्वायत निकाय)
(An Autonomous body under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI)
चांगसारी, असम- 781101 | Changsari, Assam - 781101
Email: - academic-section@aiimsguwahati.ac.in

Ref. No.02-14/AIIMS/GHY/ESTT/RECRUITMENT(SR)/Part-II/260 D(A) Date: 29.05.2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF SENIOR RESIDENT (NON- ACADEMIC)

Reservation Roster of Senior Resident (Non-Academic)

UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total Vacancy
42	45	24	7	11	129

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Guwahati invites online applications for the post of **Senior Resident (Non-Academic)** in various departments as per the above seat matrix.

For detailed advertisement including department-wise vacancies, educational qualifications, age limit, experience, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and online application process, candidates are advised to visit the Institute website: **www.aiimsguwahati.ac.in.**

Sd/-
Dr.Muralidhar Reddy Sangam
Dean Academic, AIIMS Guwahati

किसान KISAN
INDIA'S LARGEST
AGRI SHOW
9-13 DEC · PUNE
Secure Your Spot
Book Your Stall Now!
kisan.in

GMDC Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
RARE EARTHS
GMDC, one of India's leading mining PSUs invites global partnerships to **Establish Rare Earths Permanent Magnet Manufacturing facility at the REE Hub in Gujarat, India**
Submission Deadline: 1st August 2026, 16:00 Hrs IST
Scan the QR Code For More Details & Document Download

GAIL Gas Limited
[A wholly owned subsidiary of GAIL (India) Limited]
Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for Setting up CNG Stations on Dealer Owned-Dealer Operated (DODO) Model
GAIL Gas Limited is engaged in development of City Gas Distribution Network in various Geographical Areas (Gas), authorised by Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). To promote environment friendly and economical Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fuel for transport sector, GAIL Gas Limited intends to set up CNG Stations on Dealer Owned Dealer Operated (DODO) Model on specified stretches in its authorised Geographical Areas (GAs) and invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Individual Applicant, Proprietorship, Partnership and non-individual applicants/Entities. For application procedure, eligibility criteria, land norms, specified stretches, Information Brochure, Application Form and other details, please visit EOI Section of our website **https://www.gailgas.com**
Duly filled up Application Form, along with the requisite documents and affidavits (as detailed in Information Brochure) is to be submitted Online only at the above website within given time line, for which **"Apply"** link is available at **EOI for setting up CNG Station on DODO Model.**
Corporate Office : 3rd Floor, Infohub, Jubilee Tower, B-35 & 36, Sector-1, Noida. 201301
Registered Office : 16, Bhikaiji Cama Place, R K Puram, New Delhi. 110066
GAIL Gas Limited reserves the right to reject any or all offers without assigning any reason
Corporate Identification Number: U40200DL2008GOI178614

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT-IN-AID UNDER THE SCHEME OF "FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH NATIONAL PRESENCE" FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026-27.
The Ministry of Culture, Government of India invites applications/ proposals from Cultural Organizations under aforementioned scheme with the objective to provide financial assistance to Cultural Organizations having National Presence to meet the expenditure to be incurred on conducting the cultural programmes/festivals, etc.
Details of scheme guidelines, eligibility criteria, prescribed application format, details of required documents, etc. are available on the website of Ministry of Culture i.e. **https://culture.gov.in/offering/schemes-services/financial-assistance-cultural-organizations-national-presence**
Eligible applicant organizations should submit two copies of applications, complete in all respect **latest by 15th July, 2026 (5.00 PM)** at the following address:-
Director, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre
IB-201, Sector 3, Salt Lake City
Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700106, West Bengal
Incomplete applications and applications received after last date of receipt of applications WILL BE SUMMARILY REJECTED.
Canvassing by the applicant organizations in any form will lead to disqualification of proposal.

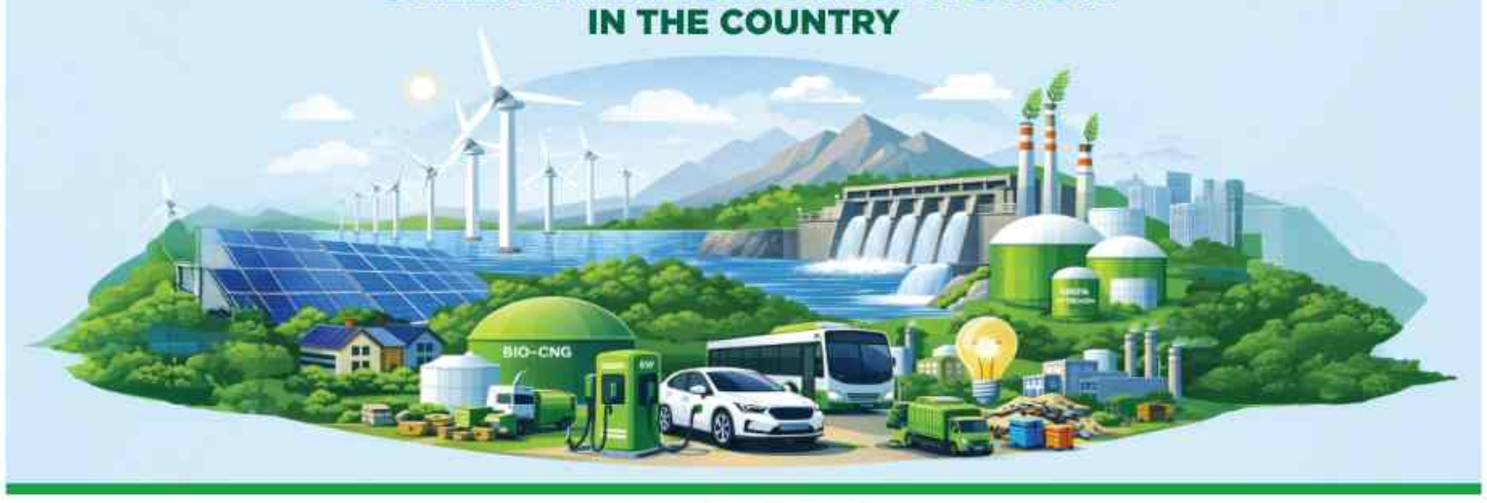
HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD
NOTIFICATION OF VACANCIES
REVIEW OFFICER/ASSISTANT REVIEW OFFICER/ COMPUTER ASSISTANT RECRUITMENT EXAMINATION-2026
Abridged Advertisement
ADV. No. 02/REVIEW OFFICER/ASSISTANT REVIEW OFFICER/COMPUTER ASSISTANT/2026 Date: 01st June 2026
On-line Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the posts of Review Officer/Assistant Review Officer/Computer Assistant in the Establishment of High Court, Allahabad under 'The Allahabad High Court Officer and Staff (Condition of Service and Conduct) Rules, 1976' (as amended from time to time) and orders as issued by Hon'ble The Chief Justice from time to time.

Post Name	No. of Vacancies	Pay Scale (as per the 7th pay commission)	Age	Minimum Essential Qualifications
Review Officer	138#	Level-8: 47600-151100 (As per the 7th Pay Commission)	21 years to 35 years as on 01.07.2026	1. Bachelor's Degree of a University established by law in India, **Or** A Qualification recognized as equivalent thereto. **And** 2. Diploma/Degree in Computer Science from a recognized Institution/ University established by Law in India, Or 'O' Level Certificate awarded by NIELET/ DOEACC Society, Or 'CCC' Certificate in Computer Science from recognized institute established by law in India. **And** 3. Knowledge of Data Entry, Word Processing and Computer Operation. **And** 4. Minimum Typing Speed of 25 Words per minute in English Typing on Computer.
Assistant Review Officer	380#	Level-7: 44900-142400 (As per the 7th Pay Commission)	21 years to 35 years as on 01.07.2026	
Computer Assistant	25#	Level-04: 25500-81100 (As per the 7th Pay Commission)	18 years to 35 years as on 01.07.2026	

#Minimum vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment, subject to increase upon any legislative amendments.
The number of vacancies in each category may increase or decrease.
Vertical reservation for S.C., S.T., O.B.C., and E.W.S. of U.P. and Horizontal reservation as per 1976 Rules shall be applicable.
Maximum age limit in the case of candidates of S.C., S.T. & other categories candidates of U.P. shall be enhanced as per aforementioned 1976 rules.
The link for submission of On-line Application Form will remain active from **01st June, 2026 to 21st June, 2026** and for fee payment upto **22nd June, 2026.**
Fee for General (Unreserved) and OBC category candidates for each post shall be Rs. 1200/- (bank charges extra).
Fee for SC/ST/E.W.S. category of Uttar Pradesh for each post shall be Rs. 1000/- (bank charges extra).
The candidates belonging to the Horizontal category shall have to pay fees according to their original category.
For mode of examination and other relevant details kindly refer to the detailed advertisement. The information regarding Date, Time and Venue of the Examination/Tests shall be intimated to the candidates through online admit cards only.
Candidates may get the details of On-line Application, Detailed Advertisement, General Instructions and apply On-line on the official Web-site of this Hon'ble Court i.e. **www.allahabadhighcourt.in** and **https://exams.nta.nic.in/allhcre.**

Sd/-
Registrar General

responsible for renewables
ENERGY FOR EVER
इरेडा IREDA
ONCE IREDA ALWAYS IREDA
(A Navratna CPSE)
THE LARGEST PURE-PLAY
GREEN FINANCING INSTITUTION
IN THE COUNTRY



*FY 2025-26 vs FY2024-25

PROFIT AFTER TAX* ₹1,873 crore Up By 10%
TOTAL INCOME FROM OPERATIONS* ₹8,337 crore Up By 23%
NET WORTH* ₹13,781 crore Up By 34%
LOAN BOOK* ₹93,069 crore Up By 22%

Extract of Audited Financial Results (Standalone and Consolidated) for the Quarter and Year ended 31 March 2026
(₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated				
		Quarter ended			Year ended		Quarter ended			Year ended	
		31-Mar-26 (Audited)	31-Dec-25 (Audited)	31-Mar-25 (Audited)	31-Mar-26 (Audited)	31-Mar-25 (Audited)	31-Mar-26 (Audited)	31-Dec-25 (Audited)	31-Mar-25 (Audited)	31-Mar-26 (Audited)	31-Mar-25 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	2,180.90	2,139.60	1,914.73	8,337.48	6,754.78	2,181.28	2,139.92	1,915.64	8,338.89	6,755.69
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	619.26	716.95	629.98	2,336.92	2,103.80	619.14	717.20	629.73	2,337.58	2,103.54
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	619.26	716.95	629.98	2,336.92	2,103.80	619.14	717.20	629.73	2,337.58	2,103.54
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	492.75	584.91	501.79	1,873.34	1,698.60	492.62	585.16	501.55	1,874.00	1,698.34
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	577.74	536.35	487.19	1,993.46	1,766.83	579.20	536.98	487.59	1,997.15	1,767.21
6.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of ₹10/- each)	2,809.23	2,809.23	2,687.76	2,809.23	2,687.76	2,809.23	2,809.23	2,687.76	2,809.23	2,687.76
7.	Other Equity	10,972.12	10,727.45	7,578.40	10,972.12	7,578.40	10,976.19	10,730.04	7,578.78	10,976.19	7,578.78
8.	Securities Premium Account (net)	2,737.56	2,737.56	864.26	2,737.56	864.26					
9.	Net Worth	13,781.35	13,536.68	10,266.16	13,781.35	10,266.16					
10.	Paid-up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	77,845.63	73,192.10	64,740.31	77,845.63	64,740.31					
11.	Debt Equity Ratio	5.65	5.41	6.31	5.65	6.31					
12.	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)										
	A. Basic:	1.76	2.09	1.87	6.73	6.32	1.76	2.09	1.87	6.73	6.32
	B. Diluted:	1.76	2.09	1.87	6.73	6.32	1.76	2.09	1.87	6.73	6.32
13.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	439.01	439.01	-	439.01	-	439.01	439.01	-	439.01

Notes:
a) The above results have been approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 29 May 2026 and have been audited by the Joint Statutory Auditors of the Company.
b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and year ended financial results filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 & 52 of the SEBI LODR Regulations. The full format of the said financial results are available on the website of the Company www.ireda.in/financial-results and on the websites of Stock Exchanges www.bseindia.com & www.nseindia.com.
c) For the other line items referred in Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI LODR Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to Stock Exchanges and can be accessed at www.bseindia.com & www.nseindia.com, respectively.
d) The Board of Directors in its meeting held on May 29 2026, recommended final dividend of ₹0.75/- per equity share (on face value of ₹10/- each) for the financial year 2025-26, subject to approval of Shareholders in the ensuing Annual General Meeting. The total dividend for the financial year is ₹1.35/-per equity share (on face value of ₹10/- each) including interim dividend of ₹0.60 per share.

For and on Behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Pradip Kumar Das
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN No.: 07448576

Date: 29.05.2026
Place: New Delhi

INDIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office: 1st Floor, Core-4A, East Court, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003, **Tel:** 011-24682206-19, **Fax:** 011-24682202
Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, August Kranti Bhawan, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi- 110066, **Tel:** 011-26717400- 12, **Fax:** 011-26717416
Business Centre: NBCC Office Complex, Office Block No. II, Plate B, 7th Floor, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi- 110023, **Tel:** 011-24347729-99
Website: www.ireda.in | **CIN:** L65100DL1987GOI027265

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW THE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS

Follow us on: IREDALtd | IREDALimited | iredaofficial | IREDA Ltd. | IREDALtd

Saraswat Bank | **Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd.**
(Scheduled Bank)
Building Trust Across Generations...
Registered Office: Ekanath Thakur Bhavan, 953, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (FOR MEMBERS ONLY)

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of Members of Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd. will be held on Tuesday, 16th June, 2026 at 04.00 pm at First Floor, Ekanath Thakur Bhavan, 953, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025 to transact the following business concerning the Bank:

AGENDA

To consider and approve the amendment to Bank's Bye Law nos. 6 e) i), 7, 47, 54, 56, 57, 58, 67, 69 and Bye law no.6 E related to erstwhile New India Co-op. Bank.

By Order of the Board of Directors.
sd/-
Arti Patil
Managing Director & CEO

Mumbai, 21st May, 2026

NOTES

1 If the required quorum of members is not present at the commencement of the meeting, it shall be adjourned. The adjourned meeting will resume business on the same day, at the same place, at 04.30 p.m., irrespective of the quorum, in which only the business mentioned in the Notice of the Meeting shall be transacted.
2 All documents and information relating to the business to be transacted at this Special General Meeting to be held on 16th June, 2026 will be available at the Bank's Registered Office up to 15th June, 2026 on working days from 11.00 a.m. to 04.00 p.m.
3 Members are requested to submit their queries, if any, regarding the business to be transacted at this Special General Meeting, in writing at the Bank's Registered Office upto 15th June, 2026 on working days from 11.00 a.m. to 04.00 p.m.
4 Members are requested to note that considering the agenda subject requiring voting of members, only the eligible members as per the Bye-Laws of the Bank will be permitted to attend and vote.
5. Members are kindly requested to carry Photo Identity Card for the meeting.

AICTE scheme opens doors for students in remote, regions

BANGALORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Programmes Offered

Bachelor of Engineering (B.E)

- Computer Science and Engineering
- Information Science and Engineering
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science)
- Computer Science and Engineering (IOT and Cyber Security including Blockchain Technology)
- Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Electronics Engineering (VLSI Design and Technology)
- Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Robotics and Artificial Intelligence
- Civil Engineering

Post Graduate Programmes

Master of Computer Applications (MCA)
Master of Business Administration (MBA)
Master of Technology (M.Tech)
- Civil, Structural Engineering
- VLSI Design and Embedded Systems
- Computer Science and Engineering

Ph.D Programs and
M.Sc Engineering (By Research)
15 VTU approved Research Centers

ADMISSIONS 2026-27

Placements

For Admission Contact: +91 [illegible]

PIMPRI CHINCHWAD UNIVERSITY

ADMISSION OPEN AY 2026 - 27

AI

SOMAIYA VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY

ADMISSIONS 2026 - 27

Knowledge Alone Liberates

SOMAIYA VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY

APPLY TO 100+ PROGRAMMES

Engineering
Humanities & Social Sciences
Film Making
Education
Management
IT, Computer & Data Science
Sports & Exercise Science
Fine Arts
Design
Music & Performing Arts
Language & Literature
Digital Library & Information Science

100+
100+

PARALLAX

Apply Now

CONTRAPUNTO

An expert is somebody who is more than 50 miles from home, has no responsibility for implementing the advice he gives, and shows slides

– EDWIN MEESE

Glitch. Retest. Repeat

NTA & CBSE have a lot to answer for. Their test systems have evidently failed, risking Indian youngsters' futures

The fiasco of CUET-UG 2026 (university entrance exams) is yet another alarming demonstration of NTA and CBSE's stunning institutional failure. Let's count the ways: repeated paper leaks, administrative chaos, leadership vacuum at NTA, 'technical glitches', embarrassing attempts at cover-ups, poor communication, and a breathtaking indifference to millions of students, whose futures hang in balance.

CUET-UG 2026 suffered a so-called technical glitch. Exam was delayed by hours. Several could not finish the test. For these kids, and those who left exam centres once the glitch happened (because it is so centralised, no one knows what's going on, and hearsay replaces official communication), there will be a re-test. How glibly authorities tell us, kids will have an "opportunity" to write the test again. How cruel. Do they have no idea the toll such an unending cycle of exams has?

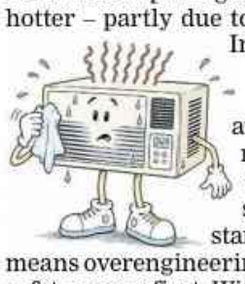
NTA and CBSE have become symbols of ineptitude in their rushed drive to centralise and go digital. Instead of transitioning to digitised formats only after investments are complete, systems secure and fail-safe, and emergency response teams adequate, both NTA and CBSE scramble for damage control after every debacle. Each year, at NTA, reaction is episodic. Who is to blame, for the gap in oversight, during the implementation of security protocols, incorporated after NEET-UG 2024's leak? Paper-leak mafia appears to be getting the better of the Centre. Why did CBSE transition to onscreen marking before its scanning infra was in place? Inexcusable. It shows a jugaad approach, cutting corners. Who will investigate why exam bodies are failing to build systems that actually work? As each vulnerability is probed, the solution should not be to simply shuffle bureaucrats. This is not an operational or logistics nightmare, but a policy and design failure.

Debate that once centred on the best measure of merit, now revolves around incompetency of the system that funnels children's futures, and is corroding merit. Those entrusted with these responsibilities must understand: students sacrifice the better part of their childhood to prepare for these soul-destroying board and entrance exams. Some smart 17- and 19-year-olds have exposed several vulnerabilities that CBSE has conceded were system flaws. Yet, these youngsters are themselves hostage to entrance exams, run by NTA and CBSE. It is a depressing betrayal of an entire generation of students, if the very bodies conducting exams cannot be trusted to hold them fairly.

24-Degree View

ACs are becoming firebombs. Govt should set minimum performance standards, keeping in mind hotter summers

Is anyone keeping track of AC fires and blasts? Govt isn't. There's no official database of deaths and injuries resulting from these either. Frankly, nobody knows the scale of the problem. But judging by almost daily reports from across the country, it's significant. And, at least two reasons are obvious. One, AC use is rising rapidly – roughly 1.5cr new units each year. Two, ACs are running longer without a break, to counter growing heat and humidity. Poor repair and maintenance, and use of inflammable refrigerants – required by law because they are eco-friendlier – are also factors. If nothing is done now, ACs could become a bigger hazard in coming years, because AC ownership will grow fastest in India, and Indian cities will grow hotter – partly due to those same ACs using gigawatts of power. International Energy Agency estimates India could have 110cr ACs by 2050.



So, what should govt do? Spreading awareness about proper AC use, service and maintenance is important, but not a fail-safe intervention. Even NGOs can do that. Govt specifically should address the minimum design standards for ACs, and also refrigerators. If it means overengineering compressors, so be it. Costs might rise, but safety comes first. With North Indian cities frequently hitting 45°C now, equipment designed for 40°C will fail, sometimes dangerously. Beyond safety, govt should also look at energy consumption of ACs. Studies show ACs would consume much less power if they were designed to counter humidity more than heat. Since India with 1.1bn ACs would need many times more energy, replanning cities and housing to cut energy use must be govt's priority. Instead of each household cooling its living space, while heating the air outside, we have to think about cooling cities overall. That's a long-term project, but better, safer AC engineering can't wait.

The Picture of Dorian Palak

When leaf and airline food go separate ways

Sivakumar.Sundaram@timesofindia.com

There is a particular vanity in offering advice one has not yet been compelled to follow. For years, friends, family, the occasional stranger trapped in an airport queue…have been informed, with the gentle insistence of a man who fancies he knows better, that on long-haul flights one must always carry one's own food, at least for the first leg.

Last week, on an SFO-Frankfurt-Mumbai itinerary, the inconvenience of practising one's own preaching at last arrived. A tiffin of homemade quinoa travelled quietly in the hand luggage, and at Frankfurt, a sensible little tub of curd was acquired to keep it company.

The first leg was operated by Disunited and its Asian Veg meal arrived in due course. But declined to identify itself. Once the kindly stewardess admitted, "I have no clue," the plate was returned. The quinoa and curd, meanwhile, performed with the discreet competence of objects that have never been asked to explain themselves.

By the time the Frankfurt lounge appeared, dignity and digestion were both intact, a combination on which the modern traveller cannot always count. The second leg, optimism insisted, would be entirely different. This was, after all, the Maharaja's airline – let's call it Err India. Its head purser, a woman of considerable grace, made one feel like a long-expected houseguest. The starters arrived; the mains followed; and at length the palak appeared – deeply green, properly creamy, and yet, somehow, faintly suspicious.

I lifted my fork. Something in the palak was not behaving as palak should. The steward observed, with the philosophical calm of a man long acquainted with vegetables, "Sir, that must be potato." The object was cut neatly in two, the cross-section politely presented. The potato, it must be confessed, had grain. And feathers, almost.

There followed apologies of a kind only well-bred institutions can produce, each more elaborate than the last, the head purser herself attending with such gracious remorse that one began to feel almost guilty for having noticed the chicken at all. Forgiveness, in such cases, comes naturally.

Forty years of vegetarianism teaches a certain serenity, and one does not waste good karma on a 30,000-foot misunderstanding. The episode merely confirmed the old advice: Carry the tiffin. Trust the airline, but verify with cutlery. There are, in the end, only two kinds of vegetarians in the long-haul world. Those who carry their own food, and those who soon will.

2 Tax Tweaks To Secure Growth Story

One, reduce or scrap tax on foreign capital, to get it out of flight mode. That will shore up rupee also. Two, end tax disparity between bank deposits and capital gains, to lower lending rates

Anupam Manur

Two seemingly unrelated things are happening simultaneously in Indian finance. Foreign investors are leaving at record pace, as has been widely documented. And Indian banks are running out of deposits to lend. Both are, in fact, manifestations of the same problem.

The usual explanations for FII exodus are now familiar: stronger dollar, uncertainty in markets due to West Asia, and global risk aversion. While these factors matter, they are out of govt's policy reach and offer an incomplete analysis.

What's crucial is how India has chosen to tax foreign capital in a way that is incongruous with global financial norms. Foreign capital is mobile and will compare India with other emerging markets, such as Korea, Taiwan, Brazil, Singapore, and Hong Kong, none of which levies such a tax. And in 2024, tax rates were increased for both short-term (from 15% to 20%) and long-term capital gains or LTCG (from 10% to 12.5%).

Worse, tax is levied on the rupee gain, not the dollar return. With rupee falling from 85 to 95 against dollar, an investor can lose money in dollar terms and still owe tax in India on a nominal rupee gain.

This kind of friction is tolerated when the market offers something compelling, as India did in the post-Covid rally. It's not tolerated when global capital is rotating towards AI-driven growth stories that India cannot match. And once FIIs begin to leave, rupee weakens further, imports become more expensive, RBI spends down its reserves defending the currency, and weaker rupee keeps the next round of foreign capital away. India is now inside this self-reinforcing loop.

To compound matters, govt uses its tax revenue to provide fuel and energy subsidies that have ballooned, thanks to the falling rupee. Fiscal arithmetic comes with its own irony.

FII exit, while alarming, has not caused an expected crash in markets, and this is generally celebrated as domestic absorption of the shock. It's presented as evidence of financial maturity, of *atmanirbhar* markets, and of insulation from foreign capital whims. But it has its downsides.

First, three-quarters of the ₹11.4tn that domestic institutions poured into Indian equities over the 25 months from Aug 2023 to Sept 2025, came through mutual funds, which are themselves funded largely by monthly retail SIP contributions. So the aggregated discretionary savings of middle-class Indian households have absorbed the risk of markets, instead of global, diversified capital.

More importantly, this savings shift, which has sustained equity markets, has created a structural funding crisis in Indian banking, as people have moved money out of banks and into SIPs. Between 2020 and 2025, the share of bank deposits in total household financial savings fell from about 41% to 35%, while that of mutual funds rose from 2% to 13%. For comparison, the share of deposits was 58% in 2012.

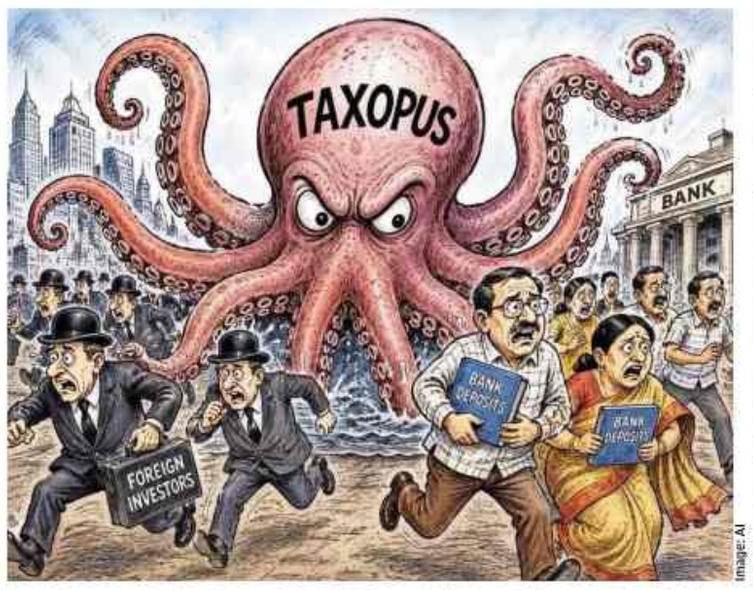


Image: AI

Govt tax policy also catalyses this shift. Interest earned on bank deposits is taxed at the full marginal rate, which can be as high as 30%, whereas LTCG is at 12.5%, which makes equities more attractive for people who can participate in markets. A 70-year-old retiree depending on fixed deposit income pays a higher effective tax rate on her interest than a wealthy investor pays on equity gains.

Due to this savings shift, banks are struggling to raise deposits fast enough to match their lending, and the credit-deposit ratio is at 82%, the highest in 61 years. The share of low-cost CASA deposits in banks' balance sheets has fallen, which has increased their cost of funds. To attract deposits, banks have to aggressively increase returns on deposits, but this invariably has led to higher lending rates as well. Small businesses that rely on bank loans for raising money must now pay a higher premium.

The squeeze on banks is much sharper, as 21% of a bank's deposits cannot be used for lending. Of every ₹100 deposited in an Indian bank, ₹3 are locked away as cash reserves, and another ₹18 are effectively required to be held in govt bonds through Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR). The reason is not prudential, but fiscal. A govt that runs a large structural deficit needs a guaranteed market for its borrowing, and SLR provides it.

The two stories of FIIs and banking share a single underlying cause. India has been running a structural fiscal deficit of around 5% of GDP, driven by welfare and capital expenditure commitments that no govt has been willing to substantially reduce. To meet that fiscal need, the state has reached for revenue from every base it can find.

Since FIIs don't vote in India, capital gains tax on their holdings was raised in 2024. And because Indian bank deposits cannot easily relocate, they are channelled through SLR into govt borrowing. Household interest income can't be moved offshore, so it is taxed at the full marginal rate while equity gains receive preferential treatment.

The state's eagerness to extract as much as possible from all possible bases, despite the true cost to the economy, is concerning. The fix is straightforward, but can be politically difficult. The 2024 capital gains tax increase should be reversed, and the rate moved towards zero for foreigners, in line with global practice. This should not be viewed as an ideological concession to foreigners, but a measure to make Indian markets competitive.

Also, SLR should be reduced further, and bond markets deepened, giving banks more room to lend. But none of these corrections holds in isolation. Each requires the state to either reduce spending or find revenue from less elastic bases, and neither has happened. Foreign capital is now demonstrating what happens when a state taxes it as though it has nowhere to go.

The writer is managing editor, Indian Public Policy Review

Can Google's Discom Licence Unlock Power Sector?

A GW-scale anchor buyer, free to negotiate rates with generators, sends a strong signal for investments in generation. But it doesn't solve the problem of India's broken distribution system

Anwesha Sen

Andhra Pradesh cabinet's decision to grant a power distribution licence to Google, for its $15bn data centre hub in Visakhapatnam, is a significant regulatory development that deserves both credit and scrutiny.

Google – operating through its subsidiary Raiden Infotech, in partnership with Adani Group – is the first private company in Andhra to receive such a licence. It can directly procure and distribute electricity for a 1GW campus across three sites in the Visakhapatnam region. And this will have a significant practical effect.

Guaranteed supply | Electricity accounts for 40-60% of operating costs in the data centre business, and AI workloads demand near-continuous uptime that state grids cannot guarantee. That's why control over transmission and distribution, as well as regulatory flexibility, is an operational necessity. Armed with the licence, Google's data centres can bypass state utility intermediaries, negotiate directly with generators, including renewable energy providers, and manage their own distribution network.

That's good for Google and its data centres, but what about the cross-subsidy regime that maintains lower rates for households and farmers?

Cross-subsidy model | India's discoms broadly serve two groups: households and farmers, who receive cheap power, and commercial and industrial consumers, who pay well above cost to make up the difference. In many states, the latter pay ₹10-12 per unit, while the actual average cost of supply sits closer to ₹7-8 per unit. This is effectively an indirect tax on industry, recycled as a subsidy to agriculture and low-income households.

That's led many industries to set up their own generating plants, for cheaper power, bypassing discoms and the cross-subsidy regime. India now has around 80GW of captive industrial generation. But every time a high-paying customer exits, the cross-subsidy pool shrinks.

Fillip for generation | While cross-subsidies are an indirect tax on industrial consumers, India's power sector also faces other sticky challenges, such as discom debt, transmission and distribution losses at more than double the global average, and lack of private capital needed to scale generation.

At first, Google's distribution licence seems to sidestep these problems, rather than solving them. But that may be the point. Power generators now have a creditworthy anchor buyer, with regulatory freedom to contract directly, which is exactly the kind of demand signal for generators to scale up.

If cross-subsidisation eventually becomes untenable, as more large consumers exit, it may be replaced with direct state subsidies, which is a more transparent mechanism.

Image: AI

Question of competition | The more immediate concern, though, is competition. Google's licence gives it a structural advantage over other large data centre operators and industrial consumers in Andhra, who must still procure power through the state discom. A competitor building a data centre in the same region, at similar scale, faces materially higher and less predictable power costs due to regulatory asymmetry. The question of who qualifies for such a licence – and on what criteria – has not been answered.

When Visakhapatnam is already attracting hyperscale interest from other operators, allocating power distribution licences through negotiation rather than a published framework leads to regulatory capture. A clear, rules-based framework for when a self-contained campus licence of this kind will be granted, and to whom, is crucial.

This also matters because it interacts with the broader subsidy package Andhra has extended to the project, which includes 25% discount on land, waiver of stamp duties, 25% discount on industrial water supply, electricity duty exemption, and ₹1/unit reduction on industrial electricity tariffs for 15 years, among others. These are real fiscal commitments where the incentive outlay amounts to ₹22,002 crore.

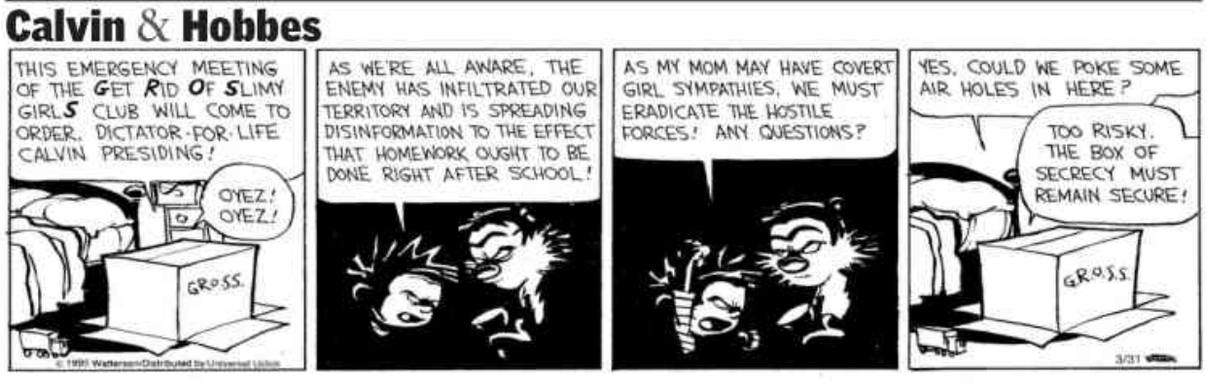
Right signals | In a market where power reliability is uncertain, incentives that de-risk the initial investment make Andhra, and by extension India, a favourable location. So, despite the caveats, the distribution licence itself is directionally correct policy. It sends a credible signal to renewable energy developers and infra financiers that a guaranteed buyer exists for 1GW of power over next several years.

Given that India's data centre capacity is expected to grow to 5GW by 2030, the anchor-tenant value of this signal is evident. When a hyperscaler like Google secures such regulatory autonomy, the resultant guaranteed demand can mobilise investments into solar, wind, and battery storage at scale and speed.

Both concerns raised here – hollowing of cross-subsidy and risk of discretionary licensing – point to the same underlying problem. India is building workarounds for a broken distribution system. The workarounds are necessary, and this one is well-designed. But each exit by a large consumer demonstrates to the next that the public grid is not worth depending on. Google's distribution licence is a legitimate instrument for attracting investment India needs. Whether it becomes part of a reform story, or simply a precedent for well-connected firms to opt out, depends on what the state does next.

The writer is assistant programme manager, Tech and Policy, at Takshashila Institution

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace

There are two basic motivating forces: fear and love. When we are afraid, we pull back from life. When we are in love, we open to all that life has to offer with passion, excitement, and acceptance. We need to learn to love ourselves first, in our glory and imperfections.

John Lennon

Tantra: The Language Of Love

Osho

All tantra treatises are dialogues between Shiv and Devi. Devi questions and Shiv answers. It is not a dialogue between a teacher and a disciple; it is a dialogue between two lovers. And tantra signifies that the deeper teachings cannot be given unless there is love between the two – the disciple and the master.

So, it is a language of love; the disciple must be in an attitude of love. You need not be a woman to be a disciple, but you need to be in a feminine attitude of receptivity. When Devi asks, it means the feminine attitude asks. Why this emphasis on the feminine attitude?

Man and woman are not only physically different, but they are also psychologically different. Sex is not only a difference in the body; it is a difference in psychologies also.

Feminine receptivity means a womb-like receptivity in the inner depth, so that you can receive. And not only that – much more is implied. A woman is not only receiving something, the moment she receives it, it becomes a part of her body. A child is received. A woman conceives; the moment there is conception, the child has become part of the feminine body. It is not alien; it is not foreign.

A disciple needs womb-like receptivity. Whatsoever is received is not to be gathered as dead knowledge. It must grow in you; it must become blood and bones in you. This growth will change you, will transform you – the receiver. That is why tantra uses this device. Every treatise starts with Devi asking a question and Shiv replying to it. Devi is Shiv's consort, his feminine part.

That is why tantra is written in love language. Something must also be understood about love language. There are two types of language: logical language and love language. There are basic differences between the two.

Logical language is aggressive, argumentative, violent. My ego is always 'right'. Love language is totally different. 'I am not concerned with my ego; i am concerned with you.' It is a compassion to help you to grow, to help you transform, to help you be reborn.

Vijnan means consciousness, and bhairav is a specific term, a tantra term for one who has gone beyond. That is why Shiv is known as Bhairav and Devi is known as Bhairavi – those who have gone beyond dualities.

In our experience only love can give a glimpse. That is why love becomes the very basic device to impart tantric wisdom. In our experience we can say that only love is something which goes beyond duality. When two people are in love, the deeper they move into it, the less and less they are two, the more and more they become one. And a point comes and a peak is reached when only apparently, they are two. Inwardly they are one; the duality is transcended.

Tantra is pure science. Tantra doesn't touch your religion at all. Tantra says that religion is a social affair… When you are ill, then whether you are a Hindu or a Mohammedan makes no difference. Tantra is amoral. On the contrary, you are immoral because you have a disturbed mind.

Abridged from The Book of Secrets / Courtesy OSHO International Foundation / www.osho.com

THE SPEAKING TREE

Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning

Skill Up for the Career You Deserve

FIND YOUR UNREAL

ADMISSIONS OPEN!

Work in Climate Change

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

Discover Excellence

ADMISSIONS OPEN

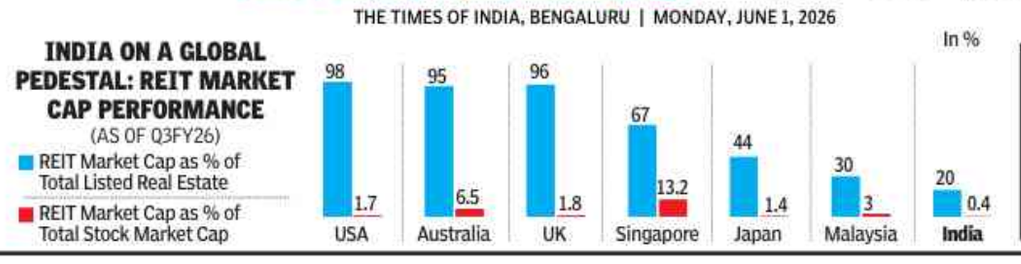
+91-80220-92222

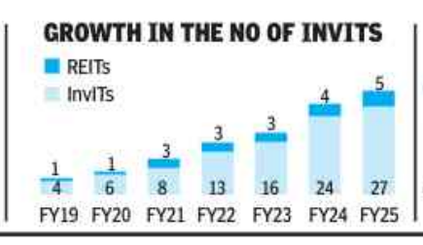
HOSTEL FACILITY AVAILABLE

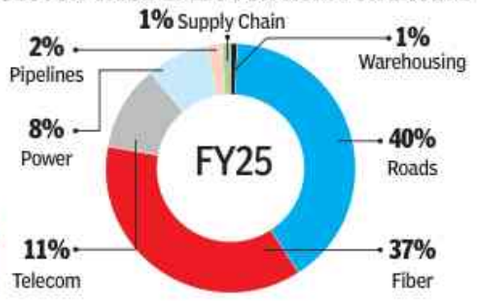
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

Despite their growth, market capitalisation of REITs in India remains relatively low. They account for about 20% of the total listed real estate sector as compared to other countries







Source: CRISIL; REITs & InvITs: Driving Trillions into Infrastructure Growth | IBEF

US FDA flags mfg, data integrity lapses at Dabur India plant

New Delhi: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has flagged serious manufacturing, maintenance and data integrity lapses at a Dabur India manufacturing facility in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, at a time when Indian pharmaceutical and healthcare product makers are facing increased scrutiny from US regulators over quality standards and manufacturing practices. According to the FDA inspection report, the regulator identified multiple deficiencies at the plant. AGENCIES

'US legal issues behind us, focus on growth'

New Delhi: Gautam Adani has said the Adani Group has moved beyond its US legal challenges and is accelerating investments across energy, transport, logistics and digital infra, positioning itself to benefit from rising demand for AI-led growth. In his letter to shareholders, Adani said the conglomerate remained committed to rapid expansion. AGENCIES

Trent still in early phase of growth: Noel

New Delhi: Tata Group retail firm Trent remains in the early phase of its growth journey despite rapid expansion in recent years, said its chairman Noel N Tata. He exuded confidence that the company would achieve its ambitious target of becoming ten times bigger in revenue terms in the "not-so-distant future". AGENCIES

'Gulf crisis to impact steel prices marginally'

New Delhi: Ashok Panda, the newly appointed chairman of Steel Authority of India (SAIL), has said the ongoing crisis in West Asia will likely have a marginal impact on its steel prices and the company is establishing alternative shipping routes to ensure the uninterrupted supply of raw material like limestone from the region. AGENCIES

India, US trade talks to resume on Monday

New Delhi: India and the United States are set to resume negotiations on an interim bilateral trade agreement this week, with chief negotiators from both sides meeting here for four days beginning June 1. The discussions are expected to focus on finalising the details and legal text of the proposed interim trade pact. AGENCIES

RBI MPC may hike inflation forecast, trim growth rate

All Eyes On June 5 Statement As Gulf Crisis Nears 100 Days

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: While the majority of forecasters and market participants expect Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee meeting to vote for a status quo on interest rates, the forthcoming MPC statement on June 5 will be observed minutely.

With disruptions owing to the West Asia conflict now approaching 100 days, this is no longer a short-term disturbance that the central bank can look through. It will now have to factor in the impact of the crisis into its growth and inflation forecasts.

Second, with the rupee depreciating well over 6% in 2026 — its worst performance in a decade — there is an expectation that the central bank may use policy to manage the exchange rate. Finally, the market is watching to see whether RBI will follow up on the governor's statement that the rupee is undervalued.

"We do not expect any change in repo rate or stance this time. However, the tone will be cautious, leaning towards being hawkish. We can expect RBI to increase its inflation forecast towards 5% and lower that for GDP to around 6.5% from 6.9%. We may not expect any specific measure as such on foreign exchange, though there will be an explanation given on developments," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Bank of Baroda.

SBI's economic research department has also revised the full-year FY27 inflation projection to 5–5.1%, with risks tilted to the upside. May's imported inflation is projected to jump to 7.3%. "The full-year FY27 GDP growth rate is now cast at 6.6%, subject to revisions due to ongoing geopolitical uncertainties," the report said.

Making matters worse for inflation is the forecast that the southwest monsoon would be weak at around 90% of the long-period average. It will also likely be delayed.

On the rupee, the SBI report suggests that RBI should deploy its foreign exchange reserves of around $680 billion in a calibrated manner, combining timely and surprise interventions to check excessive volatility. Alongside this, it calls for a comprehensive balance of payments package incorporating capital controls, liquidity management and policy nudges.

WILL RBI HOLD POLICY RATE?

"We do not expect any change in repo rate or stance this time. However, the tone will be cautious, leaning towards being hawkish. We can expect the RBI to increase its inflation forecast towards 5% and lower that for GDP to around 6.5% from 6.9%. We may not expect any specific measure as such on foreign exchange, though there will be an explanation given on developments —**Madan Sabnavis** | CHIEF ECONOMIST, BANK OF BARODA

"The full-year FY27 GDP growth rate is now cast at 6.6%, subject to revisions due to ongoing geopolitical uncertainties —**SBI economic research department report**

"Even as CPI inflation outcomes durably breach the RBI's 4% target, we believe the MPC will look through this as a supply shock —**Barclays report**

FPIs take out nearly ₹33k cr from Indian equities in May

New Delhi: Foreign investors continued to pare their exposure to Indian equities, withdrawing Rs 32,963 crore in May. Besides FPIs, analysts expect developments around the West Asia war, crude oil prices, and the RBI's interest rate decision to determine the equity-market trend in the event-heavy week ahead.

In 2026 so far, the total outflow by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from the equity market has reached just under Rs 2.3 lakh crore, which is higher than the nearly Rs 1.7 lakh crore pulled out during the entire 2025, according to data with the NSDL.

FPIs were net sellers in all months of 2026, except Feb. They withdrew Rs 35,962 crore in Jan before turning net buyers in Feb, when they invested Rs 22,615 crore, the highest monthly inflow in 17 months. However, the trend reversed in March, when foreign investors pulled out a record nearly Rs 1.2 lakh crore. The selling continued in April with net outflows of Rs 60,847 crore and extended into May with withdrawals of nearly Rs 33,000 crore.

FPIs have been selling Indian equities due to a combination of weak earnings growth, rupee depreciation and more attractive opportunities in other markets, market experts said. However, the pace of selling has been moderated.

Geojit Investments chief investment strategist V K Vijayakumar said subdued earnings growth in India, compared with significantly stronger corporate performance in markets such as the US, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, has prompted FPIs to shift capital overseas.

In the week ahead, macroeconomic data announcements, trading activity by foreign investors and the rupee-dollar trend would act as key drivers for equities, analysts said.

"Participants will closely monitor global developments surrounding the US-Iran situation and movement in crude oil prices, which continue to remain critical for inflation expectations, currency stability, and foreign flows," Ajit Mishra, SVP, research, Religare Broking, said.

Last week, the BSE benchmark sensex dropped 640 points, or 0.8%, and the NSE Nifty declined 172 points, or 0.7%. AGENCIES

Share of biz in bank credit rises in FY26, deposits up

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Personal loan growth moderated to 12.9% as of end-March 2026 and fell below overall credit growth after outpacing it for several years. However, its share in total credit remained high at 30.7%. Loans to the private corporate sector accounted for more than one-fourth of total bank credit and grew 15.5% from 11.9% a year ago according to data released by RBI on its annual Basic Statistical Returns.

Meanwhile, deposit growth accelerated to 11.5% as of end-March 2026 from 10.6% a year ago, with all population groups recording double-digit growth. Over the past five years, the composition of deposits shifted, with the share of savings deposits declining to 28.7% in March 2026 from 34.6% in March 2022, while the share of term deposits increased to 61.6% from 55.2%.

Overall bank credit growth accelerated to 14.1% year-on-year as of end-March 2026 from 11.1% a year ago, reflecting broad-based expansion across sectors and geographies.

Households remained the largest contributors to deposits, accounting for 59.3% of the total

The share of loans bearing interest rates of less than 9% increased to 64.2% from 43.9%, in line with monetary policy actions during FY 2025-26.

The share of term deposits bearing interest rates of less than 7% increased to 61.8% from 27.3% a year ago. The share of senior citizens in total deposits remained stable at 20%, within a narrow range over the past four financial years.

Credit growth in agriculture and industry rose to 14.4% and 12.0% respectively from 8.1% and 9.4% a year ago. Their shares in total credit stood at 12.9% and 22.4%. Borrowings by the household sector increased 14.3%, accounting for 58.6% of total bank credit and around three-fifths of incremental credit during FY 2025-26. The share of individuals in total bank credit remained stable at 47.8%.

Within this segment, the share of female borrowers increased to 24.7% from 23.8% a year ago.

Oman FTA benefits kick in from today

New Delhi: The finance ministry on Sunday issued notification on duty concessions on Omani goods under trade pact with India, which will come into effect from June 1.

The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed in Dec last year. "Provided that the (duty) exemption shall be available only if the importer proves to the satisfaction of the deputy commissioner of customs or assistant commissioner of customs, as the case may be, that the goods in respect of which the benefit of this exemption is claimed are of the origin of the Sultanate of Oman," the finance ministry notification said.

India is offering duty concessions on 77.8% of its total tariff lines (12,556), which covers 94.8% of India's imports from Oman by value. AGENCIES

TOI IN THE CLASSROOM

Why Are Gilt Funds Under Yield Pressure In Current Market?

Rising bond yields over the last year have led to weak returns in gilt funds. These funds are sensitive to interest-rate movements and are best suited for investors who can make calls at the right stage of the interest-rate cycle

Invesco Mutual Fund
An investor education and awareness initiative

For Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines along with the documentary requirements and procedure for change of address, phone number, bank details, etc., please visit the Education and Guidance section on www.invescomutualfund.com. Investor should deal with only SEBI registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified under "Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure Institutions" on https://www.sebi.gov.in/index.html. For any grievance / complaint, please call us on 1800-209-0007 or write to us at mfservices@invescoindia.com. Alternatively, complaints can be registered on the SEBI SCORES Portal at https://scores.sebi.gov.in

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

What Are Gilt Funds?

Gilt funds are a category of debt mutual funds that invest in govt securities (G-Secs). These schemes hold a mix of govt bonds with varying maturities. Since the securities are backed by the sovereign, these funds do not carry corporate credit risk, making the probability of default extremely low. As per AMFI data, there are 23 gilt funds managing around Rs 33,000 crore of investor money. The mutual fund industry's debt asset under management was at Rs 19.14 lakh crore as on April 30, 2026.

Why Is This Category Not As Popular As Other Debt Fund Categories?

While gilt funds carry negligible credit risk because they invest only in sovereign-backed securities, they remain highly sensitive to interest-rate movements. Most gilt funds hold medium-to-long-duration govt bonds, whose prices can fluctuate sharply when bond yields move. As a result, returns could be uncertain, unlike fixed deposits or short-duration debt funds that offer relatively stable returns. Since many retail investors in debt products prioritise stability and liquidity over interest rate directional bets, categories such as liquid, short-duration and corporate bond funds tend to be more popular.

How Do Gilt Funds Make Money?

Gilt funds make money in two ways. One is through the interest earned on govt bonds and through gains when bond prices rise. Bond prices usually rise when interest rates and bond yields fall. Since gilt funds often hold long-term bonds, they can deliver strong returns during falling interest-rate cycles and perform better than other debt fund categories in such periods. But when yields rise, their returns can turn weak or even negative.

Who Are Gilt Funds Suited For?

Gilt funds are best suited for investors who understand interest rate cycles. Since these tend to perform well when interest rates and bond yields fall, investors must aim to buy when bond yields are elevated. Wealth advisors usually advise investors to accumulate when the 10-year benchmark is at 7.2%-7.3% levels. This product may not suit investors seeking stable returns.

— PRASHANT MAHESH

Have hiked provisions, cut costs on motor 3rd party, says HDFC Ergo

Mayur.Shetty
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: HDFC Ergo General Insurance has tightened costs in motor third-party cover, fearing claims inflation could sink the line without strict underwriting. It reset reserves in FY25–FY26 after spotting inflation outrunning assumptions.

Speaking to **TOI** MD & CEO Parthanil Ghosh said claim dynamics had shifted.

"We felt that the third-party rates vis-a-vis the commission that is being paid, is something that doesn't make sense to grow this business everywhere," Ghosh said. "We increased our claims reserve by close to Rs 950 crore for which we got capital from our promoters," he said.

"Number of accidents has come down, but deaths per accident have gone up... Earlier a hit would have resulted in an injury. Now it is converted to death because the impact is much higher," he said.

HDFC Ergo cut commissions in motor TP, especially where claims had inflated payouts. "Our commission rate... is in single digit... where most of the companies will be upwards of 20%," Ghosh said. Motor now formed 19% of business— about half industry weight.

Following the revision, growth has rebounded.

LIC weighs foray into fintech space, strategic investment on table

New Delhi: Insurance giant LIC is actively considering establishing a fintech arm either through strategic investment or organic way to cater to its growing digital needs, CEO & MD R Doraiswamy said. "Naturally, to meet the modernisation requirement and particularly to bring innovation, we are engaging both fintech and insurtech players and we are getting a lot of new things being developed by such players," Doraiswamy said.

Doraiswamy, who had spearheaded the modernisation of IT infrastructure and business applications of LIC's Individual Business as executive director, said, the corporation needs to have both its own core development teams as well as the support of IT players.

"So, both go hand in hand-...we are engaging the fintech players but whether it can be a strategic partner, we are looking at various options available and we may be coming up with something...our first aim is to modernise our IT applications and become as agile and nimble-footed as possible to remain relevant in the competition," he said.

"We are a big financial institution investing in multiple organisations and we also look at strategic investments in any specialised player as a way of improving the returns on the policyholders' funds," he added. AGENCIES

Rolls-Royce looks to set up MRO, aero gas turbine unit

Saurabh.Sinha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Betting big on India, British engineering MNC Rolls-Royce plans to set up a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) unit here for its engines powering aircraft, ranging from regional jets to Airbus A350s. It is open to increase its sourcing multi-fold to over $1 billion in next five years if its plans for the country's defence and power systems take off.

The two biggest things it has offered India are technology transfer to develop indigenous engines for the fifth generation advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA). And, it is "seriously exploring the opportunity for small modular reactors for civil nuclear use here" under the recently cleared Shanti (Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India) Act 2025 that has ended public sector monopoly in the sector.

In an exclusive interaction with **TOI** Friday, Rolls-Royce EVP (transformation India) Sashi Mukundan said: "AI and IndiGo together have firm orders for over 100 Airbus A350s that are powered only by our engines. These planes will be delivered over the next few years and we are talking at least 220 engines and spare parts. The potential (for more wide bodies) is far greater here. As far as having an engine MRO in India goes, the question is not if but when – it is a matter of timing and that will depend on the number of engines we will have here in the next few years. We already have 100 engines in Indian civil airspace side on business jets and commercial airliners." At present, commercial aircraft engines from India are sent to Rolls-Royce MROs in Singapore and Hong Kong.

"With the full support of the UK govt, we have offered to set up an aero gas turbine complex in India where engines for military jets will be developed and in future can be for engines with dual use like civil or other engines as well. We have offered complete technology transfer into that complex in order to develop the IP where India will have the sovereignty. Our AMCA engine will be developed here and be ready for ground trials by 2032 and first flight by 2034," Mukundan said.

"As far as having an engine MRO in India goes, the question is not if but when – it is a matter of timing and that will depend on the number of engines we will have here in the next few years —SASHI MUKUNDAN | ROLLS-ROYCE EVP (TRANSFORMATION INDIA)

Just how big does India feature in the company's plans? "I am quoting my global CEO who says 'Rolls-Royce currently has three home markets — UK, US and Germany (in terms of places where the company is into all lines of its businesses).' He sees India as the fourth and next home market," he said.

If the defence and modular reactors for nuclear power plants work out, the company says it could be investing "billions of dollars" and employ over 10,000 people here. "We have been in India for 70 years now and have been developing new technologies here. We have JVs doing very well with Hindustan Aeronautics and Force Motors. Across all our verticals of power and propulsion including generators, civil & defence aircraft, and naval and land defence, we have 4,300 engines here," he said.

India Inc elevates more she-suite execs into mn-$ club

Rupali.Mukherjee
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Domestic companies have outpaced MNCs in rewarding women leaders at the top with more female C-suite executives entering the million-dollar compensation league as India Inc sharpens its focus on diversity and professional talent.

Nine women leaders are now part of the elite club of CXOs earning over a million dollars, up from seven two years ago, according to an analysis shared exclusively with **TOI** by global executive search firm EMA Partners.

A majority of the women CXOs in the million-dollar club are from domestic companies with the largest representation from the pharmaceuticals and consumer sectors, the data showed. The study analysed BSE 200 companies and considered an annual compensation (including fixed bonus, variable pay, any stocks exercised) of $1 million plus as the threshold.

PHARMA LEADS

Women CXOs in Million-Dollar Club – By Sector (FY2024-25)

Sector	Count of Women CXOs
Pharmaceuticals	3
Financial Services	2
FMCG / Consumer	2
F&B, QSR & Food Services	1
Power & Renewables	1
TOTAL	9

Source: EMA Partners

Gopinadhan KG, senior partner — India & Singapore, EMA Partners, said, "The uptick in the number of million-dollar women CXOs in India reflects a structural shift where diversity is being embedded as a business imperative rather than a compliance metric, particularly among the progressive Indian and European MNCs. This shift is increasingly being driven by professional executives, unlike earlier years when such compensation was largely promoter-led; particularly in sectors like financial services and pharma/life sciences that have historically fostered stronger female leadership pipelines in comparison to sectors such as industrial, energy & infrastructure."

In FY25, Nilima Prasad Divi, promoter, Divi's Labs, topped the list of top-paid women executives, followed by United Spirits MD & CEO Hina Nagarajan and Vinita Gupta, CEO of Lupin. The same year Yashish Dahiya, co-founder, chairman & group CEO, PB Fintech (PolicyBazaar), emerged as the country's highest paid CXO, taking home Rs 641 crore (largely driven by exercised ESOPs).

Explaining the trend of domestic companies outpacing MNCs, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, executive chairperson of Biocon, said the shift is structural as domestic firms build global-scale businesses and increasingly compete for leadership talent at international benchmarks.

"Many Indian firms are more performance-driven than MNC subsidiaries when it comes to recognising women leaders. Also, a higher compensation reflects a stronger leadership pipeline, with more women moving into P&L, digital and strategic leadership roles. But the trend is still concentrated among larger companies and select sectors. Women leaders still have to fight for their positions," she said.

Industry experts say the shift reflects a wider change in corporate India's strategy, with companies placing a higher premium on professional talent and increasingly favouring merit-driven leadership and specialised managerial expertise at the top.

Over the last few years, financial services and consumer-facing sectors have emerged as those with the strongest representation among top-paid women CXOs. This is because these sectors have historically offered stronger pathways for women into leadership, Shaw added. A decade ago, most banks in India had women at the helm, with some of them drawing the highest remuneration packages.

THE TIMES OF INDIA
www.educationtimes.com
Education TIMES
THE PATH TO EXCELLENCE
Advertisement/Boosted Promotional Feature

INTRODUCING

RAMAIAH INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & MANAGEMENT

A Distinct Greenfield Deemed to be University
Under UGC Act, AICTE approved

IN COLLABORATION WITH

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

ENGINEER YOUR FUTURE BEFORE THE FUTURE ARRIVES

RISM where Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) converges with Management

Designed in Bengaluru - India's innovation capital - RISM is:

- GLOBALLY BENCHMARKED
- INDUSTRY EMBEDDED
- TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH FOCUSED
- WITH GLOBALLY RENOWNED FACULTY

The objective is not merely to prepare students for their first job. It is to prepare them for industries that will continue evolving long after they graduate.

ADMISSIONS OPEN

Scores of SAT, JEE and COMEDK will be considered for the admission.

TUITION FEE WAIVER
80% tuition fee waiver for all four years of the program.

PROGRAMMES B.Tech. in
COMPUTER SCIENCE & AI
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL SCIENCES
Management
BBA - TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

Scan the QR Code to view the pre-registration / application page.

Pre-Registration Email
preregistration@rism.org.in
WWW.RISM.ORG.IN
73533 34533 / 05533

BUILT FOR FUTURE ENGINEERS, INNOVATORS, ENTREPRENEURS & INDUSTRY LEADERS

SNAP SHOTS

Abhay advances

India's Abhay Singh and Veer Chotrani advanced to the second round at the British Open squash even as Ramit Tandon and Anahat Singh bowed out of the PSA Diamond event in Birmingham. World No. 24 Abhay defeated Colombia's Matias Knudsen 11-8, 11-5, 11-4, while world No. 44 Chotrani beat Pakistan's world No. 29 Noor Zaman 11-8, 12-14, 11-6, 11-7.

Young Dynamos triumph: Ranjith Selvaraj struck a double to power Young Dynamos FC to a comfortable 6-1 win over Bangalore Kickers FC in the BDFC 'C' Division League football championship in Bengaluru on Sunday. While Ajmal Saiyath Mustafa scored the opener in the 11th minute, Velmurugan, N Mohanraj, and P Kanan chipped in with a goal apiece in the lop-sided Group 6 match at the Bangalore Football Stadium. In another contest, Royals FC handed Chinnappa Garden FC a 5-0 defeat.

Results: Group 6: Shining Star FC 1 (Kishan HS 2) bt Freedom FC 0; J Sports FC 2 (J Avah Liio 7, 29) bt Bangalore Muslims FC 1 (Mohammed Usman 18); Young Dynamos FC 6 (Ajmal Saiyath Mustafa 11, Ranjith Selvaraj 34, 60, Velmurugan 40, N Mohanraj 51, P Kanan 58) bt Bangalore Kickers FC 1 (Zicco Rabhi 22). **Group 8:** Rangers FC 1 (Shawn Sebastian 26) bt RBI FC 0; Royals FC 5 (Subvash N 14, 49, Srikanth N 21, Vasu 33, Rajashekar 35) bt Chinnappa Garden FC 0.

Sat-Chi break two-year jinx

Survive Nerve-Rattling Final To Clinch The Singapore Open

Manne.Ratnakar
@timesofindia.com

The jinx has finally been broken. Ending a 742-day wait, four final heartbreaks and eight semifinal exits, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty made a strong comeback after losing the first game to emerge triumphant in the Singapore Open Super-750 tournament on Sunday.

The former world No.1 pair survived several anxious moments before getting past Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri of Indonesia 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 in a nerve-rattling one hour 13-minute contest. Despite possessing immense talent and beating all the top teams with authority, the Indian pair was

BADMINTON

unlucky not to finish on the top of the podium over the last two years. Such was the relief after enduring so much disappointment that both Indians converted the court into a mini dance floor to celebrate their victory.

The moment their opponents crashed the shuttle into the net, Chirag hid his face in his hands in disbelief while Satwik collapsed onto the court in celebration. He soon got up with a baby-themed gesture, dedicating victory to his brother's baby. The maiden triumph in Singapore is their third Super-750 title after their French Open victories in 2022 and 2024. They had also won the Indonesia Super-1000 in 2023. Thrilled after the victory, Satwik said, "I am a bit numb today as we have won a title after a gap of two years. Before coming here, we were a bit nervous because we had not done very well here in the past. But this week is special."

After losing the first game, the Indians secured a 14-8 lead in the second. Though the Indonesians reduced the margin to 13-15, Satwik-Chirag pushed ahead to score big points towards the end. In the third game, the Indians secured a decisive advantage, winning five straight points from 1-2 to move to 6-2. The Indians did well to hang on to the lead, though their rivals pushed hard.

BAI

CHAMPIONS: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (left) & Chirag Shetty celebrate

Chirag admitted the contest demanded a lot out of them. "It was very intense. We knew when we got onto the court that it would be a cracker of a game and that it will go on till the very end. I think for the audience, especially, it was a very good game and for us as well," said Chirag, adding that they knew a win will come.

"Two years! We knew for a fact that eventually the win would come. We had that belief and it was just a matter of time and finally we got it," he added. The game plan of the Indians was to control the early phase. "With the Indonesians or Malaysians, it's mainly about the first four shots. They are very good with those shots. If they put us under pressure, they always end up on top. So you must focus on the first three and not focus on the front court ... I felt they were under pressure when we were chasing," Satwik said. The Indian team will move to Indonesia for the Super-1000 tournament from Tuesday.

AN SE YOUNG, ALEX LANIER CHAMPS

Top seed An Se Young of South Korea and unseeded Alex Lanier of France won the women's and men's singles titles. While An worked hard to beat third seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan 21-11, 17-21, 21-19, Lanier defeated Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 17-21, 21-15, 21-14.

Rasikh, IPL's quiet success story

Chitrangada.C
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: When Rasikh Salam Dar grew up in Kulgam, Jammu and Kashmir, cricket was a passion before it became a real possibility. People played everywhere. Tennis-ball matches stretched into the afternoons. Yet, professional cricket seemed distant and uncertain as a career.

"When I started from my district, nobody had really made it," Rasikh told TOI. "People had doubts. Families were unsure whether cricket could really become a career."

Now, things are different. "There are four or five players from Kashmir in the IPL now, and that is a huge achievement," said Rasikh, who bowled a maiden and

PLAYMAKER

took two wickets against the Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 1.

At 26, he represents that shift. As a right-arm pacer, he built his IPL career across franchises before finding a stable home with Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

After a modest 2024 season with Delhi Capitals, RCB invested heavily — Rs 6 crore — in Rasikh at the mega auction and retained him. He has repaid their faith. With Yash Dayal out, Rasikh is a quiet hero in RCB's march to the final. For Rasikh, the journey is about more than numbers — it's also about inspiring belief at home. "Now, youngsters see us playing and feel they can do it," he said. "Earlier, families worried: what if cricket doesn't work out?"

AP

MAKING AN IMPACT: Rasikh Salam Dar

His own family carried similar concerns. "My father (Abdul Salam Dar) is a teacher. Naturally, he used to think about my studies and career." His mother, however, never wavered. "She always believed," he said with a smile. "She never asked me to stop playing."

That support carried him through uncertain early years, when cricket was joy, not structure. "I started with tennis-ball cricket. My cousin Nadeem Dar took me everywhere for matches. We were just enjoying ourselves, not thinking professionally," he recalled.

Transitioning from village to elite cricket was not easy. Facilities in Kashmir were limited. "If you're passionate and give your hundred percent, you'll get something back," Rasikh said. "Limited facilities make things hard, but nothing is impossible."

What does the IPL's glitz and pressure do to a cricketer's mindset from the valley? Rasikh, who switched allegiance from J&K to Baroda last season, tries to stay grounded. "The IPL brings attention and criticism. One good performance, people praise you. One bad day, things change quickly." Inside the RCB setup, Rasikh learns from seniors like Bhuvneshwar and Hazlewood. "We discuss bowling plans and situations. I try to learn constantly."

Despite his maturity, one ambition remains. "I just want to play for India," Rasikh stated. "I don't mind the colour of the ball. I just want to play for India." That statement captures Rasikh best — uncomplicated, grounded, quietly ambitious. Away from cricket, he still prefers the simplicity of home. Time with friends. Volleyball. Tennis-ball cricket with boys from the neighbourhood. "When I go back home, I still enjoy playing with them."

The surroundings may have changed dramatically — from Kashmir's streets to the IPL spotlight — but the relationship with the game remains untouched.

FUCC claim big win

Bengaluru: Propelled by an all-round show, Friends Union Cricket Club registered an 84-run win over Rajajinagar Cricketers in the KSCA senior women's T20 tournament here recently. Batting first, Friends Union scored 176/8 with Shubha S's 65 being the top score. Rajajinagar Cricketers struggled throughout the chase and were restricted to 92/9.

For the winners, Ananya Hegde was the pick among the bowlers with figures of 3 for 7. Namita D'Souza and Reethu accounted for two wickets apiece. **Brief scores: Friends Union CC (1): 176/8 in 20 overs** (Shubha S 64, Shishira 30; Niki Prasad 2-38, Bhakti Shetty 2-32, Anusha MN 2-19) bt **Rajajinagar Cricketers: 92/9 in 20 overs** (Namita D'souza 2-20, Reethu 2-14, Ananya Hegde 3-7). **Bangalore SC: 116/5 in 20 overs** (Kushi Suryakanth 61) lost to **Swastic Union CC (1): 117/1 in 14.2 overs** (T Nireeksha 55, Andrea Lobo 41). **Mount Joy CC: 115/4 in 17 overs** (Harshika A 52) bt **Modern CC: 89/5 in 17 overs** (Tanvii Upadhyay 28, Dyuthi Randhish 27), (Delayed due to wet outfield, revised to 17 overs per side) **Cavaliers CC: 44/4 in 11 overs** (Simrah Londewale 2-12) lost to **Visweswarampuram CC (2): 45/1 in 7.2 overs.** (Delayed due to wet outfield, revised to 11 overs per side). TNN

Ton-up Dheeraj, Arya power Jawans past VCC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Jawans CC rode on **Dheeraj Gowda**'s blistering century and Arya Gowda's five-wicket haul to register a commanding 112-run victory over Visweswarapuram CC in the KSCA YS Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy here recently.

Opting to bat, Jawans' innings was revived by skipper Dheeraj, who scored a quick-fire 137 off 106 deliveries, studded with 15 boundaries and a six. He was well supported by Aadesh, who chipped in with 70 runs. Their 202-run partnership helped Jawans post 268.

Visweswarapuram lost wickets at regular intervals.

YSR MEMORIAL

Abhishek SK (37) and Madhava Dharwadkar (39) offered some fight. Jawans kept up the pressure as young Arya returned 5 for 4. Visweswarapuram were bowled out for 156 in 37.4 overs.

Brief scores: Jawans CC: 268 in 47 overs (Aadesh 70, Dheeraj Gowda 137 (106b; 15x4; 1x6); Sanjay Sihag 3-44, Nagaraja G 4-57) bt **Visweswarapuram CC (2):** 156 in 37.4 overs (Abhishek SK 37, Madhava Dharwadkar 39; Nithin Shanthaveri 2-27, Arya Gowda 5-4). **Lions CC: 230/9 in 46 overs** (Pratheek S 75, Abhinav Kulkarni 28, R Chandrasekaran 49, Ajay B 26; Thota Teja 2-22, Bharath D 3-44, Abhiram V 2-52, Kiran Kumar P 2-39) lost to **Bharath CC: 232/4 in 37.4 overs** (Vivek Singh 78 n.o, Monish S 59, Sumedh Rao 31 n.o). **Engrades CC: 221 in 40.2 overs** (Vishnu Balaji 79, SK Rathod 66; Kushaal Wadhwani 4-45, Rajendra Danganavar 4-37) vs **Sir Syed Cricketers: 2/1 in 0.5 overs** (match curtailed due to rain). **Jupiter CA: 279 in 49.5 overs** (Udhay Girish 36, Aryaman Jhalani 37, Tanshh Krishna 32, Nithish Gowda 57, Dhruv Nayak 26; Clement Rajmohan 3-51, Nirag Chethan 2-38, Shiv R 3-55) lost to **Yankees CC: 264/2 in 44 overs** (Mohammad Rayyan 118 (104b; 14x4; 4x6), K Akhil 110 (130b; 13x4)) via VJD method. **Sparklers CC: 179 in 49.3 overs** (Koushik AN 24, Tejas Naik 55, Jithendra VN 36, Kalash 27 n.o; Rishabh Adiga 3-29, Samarth MP 3-41) lost to **Jawahar SC (1): 180/4 in 39.1 overs** (Premnath Gode 60 n.o, Samarth 81 n.o; Jithendra 2-22). **Social Cricketers: 322/6 in 50 overs** (Lochan Gowda 110 (92b; 11x4; 4x6), Krishiv Bajaj 38, Aadarsh Prajwal 59, Shaun Joseph 53 n.o; Sunny Kanchi 2-69) bt **Malleswaram Gymkhana: 109 in 25.3 overs** (Pramod Gowda 27 n.o; Krishav Somasundar 3-37, Anmol Mathur 4-16) via VJD method. **National United CC: 224 in 45.2 overs** (Mithun Patil 51, Ajay HS 28, Manjunath 27, Arieska 30; Vishwa S 2-22, Sachith Shenoy Konchady 2-40, Roshan K Naidu 3-47, Shivaprasad S 2-33) lost to **Friends Union CC (2): 193/1 in 30.4 overs** (Siddesh Asalkar 84 n.o, Aditya Jha 80 n.o) via VJD method. **Palar SC, Kolar: 194 in 36.2 overs** (Thippa Reddy 125 (113b; 16x4); Ilyas Motiya 2-25, Yaseer Naikwadi 3-47, Mohammed Azharuddin 3-39) bt **Jolly Cricketers: 154 in 36 overs** (Vibhushan N 32, Jayesh Babu 48, Deepak Ugrappa 26; Ambresh K 3-37, Abhijit S 5-24). **Minerva CC: 301/7 in 31 overs** (Adarsh MA 142 (72b; 15x4; 8x6), Arnav Bharadwaj 49, Darshan R 47, Naveen Bala B 29; Kishore Manjunatha 2-42) bt **South End SC: 127 in 21 overs** (Shashank B K 27, Prajwal R 36; Amogh R 2-27, Kushal Gouda 2-17, Shaurya NS 4-24, Karthik J 2-11). (Match reduced to 31 overs per side due to rain) **Bangalore Indian CC: 200 in 49 overs** (Tejas M 68 n.o, Chethan Kumar MP 31; Aditya Mani 2-44, Adarsh Prakash 2-21, Prajwal Pavan 2-17) lost to **Herons CC: 201/2 in 24 overs** (Prajwal 110 (64b; 14x4; 3x6), Karan U 34 n.o). **Bangalore SC: 116 in 27.1 overs** (Anirudha Joshi 30; Vijay KA 2-15, Angadraj Hittalamani 3-0) lost to **Vijaya CC, Malur: 120/1 in 13.3 overs** (Sujay Korawar 56 n.o, Vijayka 48). **Coles CC: 340 in 50 overs** (Ashwin Santosh 90, Gowtham Sagar 144 (88b; 11x4; 8x6), Aditya Goyal 33; Chandrakanth Shetty 5-71) bt **Cavaliers CC: 74 in 17.1 overs** (Samith Prabhu 33, Akash Kulkarni 27, Aditya 5-29, Arbind Rai 2-21). **Jayanagar United: 192 in 48.4 overs** (Ajendra Suresh 56, Shahbaz Jamakhandi 30; Lavish Kaushal 2-27, Akash Shetty 5-59) lost to Bangalore United CC (1): 171/4 in 29 overs (Sharath Srinivas 45, Kishan Bedare 54 n.o, Nithin S 37 n.o; Shahbaz 2-41) via VJD method.

TIMES NATION

Vulnerabilities detected in portal had been 'contained': CBSE

▶ Continued from page 1

Earlier, Nisarga Adhikary had claimed that he had breached parts of CBSE's digital evaluation infrastructure and flagged alleged security vulnerabilities linked to the OnMark portal. However, CBSE on Sunday said vulnerabilities detected in the portal operated by its service provider had been "contained" and that cybersecurity specialists from multiple govt agencies and IITs had been deployed to strengthen systems. The board said it had been actively monitoring vulnerabilities being highlighted in public forums and thanked "ethical hackers" for flagging weaknesses. Advocate and activist Anubha Shrivastava Sahai has written to NHRC urging it to take suo motu cognisance of the issue and warning that ongoing OSM failures could jeopardise educational opportunities for thousands of students.

OSM tender doctored, claims teen, triggers a political row

Demands Grow For Re-Check Of Answer Sheets

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A 17-year-old Jharkhand student's forensic dissection of CBSE's controversial 'On-Screen Marking' (OSM) tender has escalated into a full-blown political and institutional row, intensifying demands for a complete re-evaluation of class XII board exam answer sheets and an independent audit of the board's digital evaluation system.

This comes amid continuing complaints from students and parents over answer-sheet mix-ups, blurred scans and alleged security lapses, and opposition parties, such as Congress, continously attacking govt over the 'OSM-Coempt' issue. Class XII student Sarthak Sidhant's blog, titled "How CBSE rewrote rules to favour Coempt EduTeck", has gone viral after opposition leaders amplified his allegations that the board repeatedly altered tender conditions in ways that allegedly benefited Hyderabad-based Coempt EduTeck, the company awarded the OSM contract.

CBSE, however, has strongly rejected the allegations related to its tender process, with board officials maintaining that the contract was awarded as per govt procedures. Coempt has also denied wrongdoing.

Sidhant's analysis claims CBSE "rewrote its own rulebook" to favour Coempt. Opening the blog, Sidhant wrote, "This is a story of how a massive public institution deliberately played with students' futures by rewriting its own rulebook." He claimed to have reviewed hundreds of tender documents and compared multiple versions of the request-for-proposal documents issued by CBSE.

Sidhant said he spent days comparing CBSE's tender documents. The blog details changes across three RFP (Request for Proposal) rounds. For example, he claimed, in the new RFP certain clauses were completely wiped out. "For the board, a track record of poor performance didn't matter anymore," he said, as he flagged edits to rules related to blacklisting.

Alleged tender rigging in ₹5cr Nagpur university deal comes under lens

Nagpur: Questions over alleged tender-rigging and exam management failures have engulfed Nagpur University as a probe panel examines whether eligibility norms were softened to ease approval for COEMPT Eduteck Pvt Ltd, a Hyderabad-based firm at centre of CBSE's on-screen marking controversy, **reports Sarfaraz Ahmed.** Inquiry into winter 2025 result blunders and summer 2026 exam glitches is focusing on alleged "tailor-made" tweaks before award of a Rs 5-crore, three-year contract to COEMPT. Among changes under scrutiny, minimum experience in handling exams and results at a govt university or board was cut from three lakh students to two lakh, while requirement for digital valuation centres was halved from 200 screens to 100.

Rahul: Modi's silence on OSM not indifference but complicity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress's **Rahul Gandhi** Sunday took on PM Narendra Modi over the CBSE OSM row, saying PM had the time to speak about everything during his monthly radio address Mann Ki BaatSunday but the 18.5 lakh children whose answer sheets were not assessed properly by CBSE.

In a post on X, the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha said, "This morning, the Prime Minister had time to speak about mangoes. He has not had time to speak about 18.5 lakh children whose answer sheets were scanned with phones. Dharmendra Pradhan ji still sits in office. Modi ji's silence is no longer indifference. It is complicity."

SC: Law was not to punish sex workers but perpetrators

▶ Continued from page 1

Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA) was largely brought forth to punish the perpetrators and not the prostitutes, the Supreme Court said.

Writing the 298-page judgment, Justice Pardiwala said Sections 7 and 8 of the Act, which seek to penalise individualised acts of prostitution under specific circumstances like "open prostitution" are exceptions to this general rule. Sec 7 penalises anyone engaging in prostitution in close proximity to public places, and Sec 8 criminalises the soliciting of customers at public places.

The bench said, "The idea being that although individual acts of prostitution are not sought to be directly shunned, yet public decency and social morality require that visible overtures even for such singular, non-commercial forms of prostitution be deterred in areas surrounding public institutions and other notified regions; even at the cost of punishing the prostitute" to prevent public nuisance.

The court clarified that it was not trying to "make a case for the absolute criminalisation on the one hand, or the absolute un-regulation on the other hand, of prostitution as a trade. All that we are trying to convey is that having made it clear that the legislative aim is not to condemn all acts of prostitution, the definition carries with it some normative ambiguity by painting it as solely being abusive or exploitative".

UK should take interest as issue dates back to British India period: Balen Shah

▶ Continued from page 1

The rapper-turned-politician and former Kathmandu mayor may now have opened a new can of worms by seeking UK's intervention. "We have spoken not only with India and China, but also with the UK govt. Our view is that the UK should also take an interest, as the issue dates back to the period when British India left the region," Shah said, according to a report by Kathmandu Post.

The PM further said that after becoming PM, he came to know that not only had India encroached on Nepal's land, but "Nepal had also encroached on India's land in multiple places". "Both sides need to sit down and look into the matter," said the PM, adding that Nepal had already raised the issue with India.

"The response (by India) states that both govts will form teams comprising historians, surveyors and experts familiar with the territory and seek a resolution through table talks," Shah said. Lipulekh in Kalapani area in western Nepal is one of the two trijunctions that Nepal has with India and China. For India, Kalapani area, including Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh, remains a part of Uttarakhand. Nepal had even earlier objected to India and China's decision to expand trade via the strategic Lipulekh Pass.

Meanwhile, Nepal foreign ministry has said PM Shah's comments regarding Nepal's "encroaching" on Indian territory were related to no-man's land and cross-border occupation between the two countries. The foreign ministry's clarification came hours after Shah made the remarks in Parliament, reported PTI.

Mamata to lead daylong sit-in to protest post-poll violence in Bengal

▶ Continued from page 1

Sources said Mamata informally spoke to the 20 legislators who did attend.

Ghosh announced block-level and municipal ward rallies Monday to "decry the attacks on Abhishek Banerjee, Kalyan Banerjee and all our workers who are victims of BJP's post-poll terror".

Mamata will lead a daylong sit-in Tuesday at the Rani Rashmoni Road protest site in central Kolkata's Esplanade against what Ghosh, MLA from Beleghata, described as "ongoing post-poll violence and inhumane hawker evictions being carried out with bulldozers". The scrapped meeting and protest plans coincided with the arrest of three former MLAs, multiple councillors and two local strongmen on charges ranging from corruption to participation in the 2021 post-poll violence.

5 arrested for assault on Abhishek; BJP claims 'factional warfare' in TMC

Kolkata: Police arrested five men, including a Trinamool Congress worker who helped organise party's Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee's visit to Sonarpur on Kolkata's southern edge Saturday, where a mob hurled eggs, stones and shoes at him, tore his shirt, broke his spectacles and left him needing a cricket helmet for protection, **report Tamaghna Banerjee, Monotosh Chakraborty & Rohit Khanna.**

BJP claimed simmering factional warfare within TMC after its assembly poll loss had burst into the open.

Those arrested were identified through phone footage and TV visuals after police registered a suo motu case. "Our investigation is on and more arrests are likely soon," SP Shubhendra Kumar said.

The accused were produced before a court Sunday and sent to judicial custody for a day. The arrests fuelled a political slugfest. While Banerjee and TMC blamed BJP supporters, residents claimed most of arrested people had links with former CM Mamata Banerjee's party, though some drifted towards BJP after TMC's poll loss.

Particularly embarrassing for TMC was the arrest of Nirmalya Sengupta, working president of Sonarpur's Jai Hind Bahini, a youth and social service outfit aligned with the party. According to TMC functionaries, he played a key role in finalising Banerjee's itinerary for Saturday's visit. Sengupta rejected the allegations while being escorted to court. "I have been framed. I have been with the party since 1998. Why would I attack Abhishek?" he said.

Ch'garh HC: Acquittal doesn't invalidate prior dismissal order

Partha.Behera
@timesofindia.com

Raipur: Chhattisgarh HC has refused to grant full back wages to a former power distribution employee dismissed after conviction in a graft case but later acquitted on appeal, holding that the exoneration does not automatically erase legal consequences of a valid dismissal order passed when conviction was in force.

The division bench of Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice Ravindra Kumar Agrawal noted in its recent order that the employer-employee relationship "remained severed" during the dismissal of Prasad Nayak (70), applied the principle of "no work no pay" and rejected his appeal against earlier single bench orders of the HC. Nayak was convicted in 2012 by a lower court under the Prevention of Corruption Act, leading to his dismissal.

Bldg owner, on run, faces culpable homicide charge

▶ Continued from page 1

Rescue teams deployed specialised victim-location cameras and acoustic listening devices to detect faint signs of life beneath the concrete blocks. Earthmovers, hydraulic cutters, drilling machines, and trained canine squads were deployed as well.

Delhi Police has filed an FIR on charges of culpable homicide against the absconding building owner, Karamveer, who is a businessman, and two contractors. Two MCD engineers have been suspended and a magisterial inquiry is underway. 3D mapping of the building is likely to be conducted on Monday.

The building housed offices and co-working spaces across multiple floors. It originally comprised a ground floor and three upper floors, but two additional floors — some locals alleged 3-4 floors — had been constructed over the past few months. An illegal expansion was allegedly underway on the top floor of the building ahead of the collapse, adding pressure on the structural frame that locals claimed was built using substandard raw material. There was no one in the building when it fell, authorities said.

A video shot by a bystander captured the exact moment when the floors folded, showing an ominous, thick cloud of suffocating grey dust blanketing the narrow lanes. "The owner was aware of the risks involved, yet the construction continued," said a senior cop, adding that a few months ago, they had conveyed their concerns to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) about the new construction activities there.

"The structure was over a decade old and couldn't bear the pressure of additional construction," said an investigator.

DAYANANDA SAGAR UNIVERSITY

INDIA'S AI FIRST UNIVERSITY
POWERED BY NVIDIA

BUILD THE FUTURE WITH AI

@ DAYANANDA SAGAR UNIVERSITY

Introducing DSU's Enterprise Class AI Factory in Partnership with NVIDIA.
The same world-class infrastructure that powers leading global AI Super Computing Arenas – now at DSU.
The DSU NVIDIA AI Factory is production-grade, one of its kind in the Global South in an academic Campus.
Artificial Intelligence is reshaping every industry. The DSU AI Factory creates a powerful ecosystem where students, researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs can learn experiment and build on-the-cutting-edge in the age of intelligent technologies.

The AI Factory Explained

DSU AI FACTORY - NVIDIA DGX B200 - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

20 DGX B200 Nodes	15X Faster Inference Than Prev GEN H100	6TH GEN Tensor Cores FP4	2.88EF FP4 Inference Exaflops	28.8TB HBM3E GPU Memory
160 Blackwell B200 GPUs	288TB/s NVLink Bandwidth	CUDA Full Stack Hybrid - 9	NEMO NVIDIA AI Enterprise	1.44EF AI Compute FP8 Training

NVIDIA DLI Certified | Blackwell Architecture | AI University Program

CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

- Enterprise Class AI Factory
- Cyber Defence & Sovereign Security
- Spatial Computing (AR/VR/XR)
- Embodied AI & Robotics
- High Performance Computing & Data Science

WHY STUDY AT DSU?

- Enterprise Class AI Factory
- Cyber Defence & Sovereign Security
- Spatial Computing (AR/VR/XR)
- Embodied AI & Robotics
- High Performance Computing & Data Science

- Engineering
- Medicine
- Pharmacy
- Nursing
- Physiotherapy
- Allied Health
- Biological Sciences
- Computer Applications
- Commerce & Management
- Journalism & Mass Communication
- Design
- Law
- Executive MBA in Applied AI & Decision Intelligence
- Online Education

KEET CODE : E3AB
COMEDK CODE : E1B2
ADMISSIONS OPEN

admissions@dsu.edu.in
080 4640 3080 | 9741488001
www.dsu.edu.in

DSU Main Campus :
Harohalli, Kanakapura Road
Bengaluru-562 112

DSU City Innovation Campus :
Kodiu Gate, Hosur Main Road
Bengaluru-560 068

NAAC A+

TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

MITCHELL SANTNER BACK IN NZ TEST SQUAD AFTER RECOVERING FROM SHOULDER INJURY

INDIA WOMEN'S SKIPPER HARMANPREET SAYS HER TEAM IS PLAYING OUT TOO MANY DOT BALLS

BMW

THIS MATCH IS FIXED.

THE KIND OF FEELING YOU GET WHEN YOU MEET YOUR BEST HALF. THE 5LWB.

Stuff of champions

Kohli, Ruthless Bowling Attack Power RCB To Consecutive IPL Crowns

Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: In the end, it had to be him.

Virat Kohli fittingly applied the finishing touches as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) sealed a second straight IPL title, chasing down 156 to beat Gujarat Titans by five wickets in a one-sided final at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday night. 'King' Kohli smashed Arshad Khan over long-on for six to finish things off with two overs to spare, capping a dominant performance.

Unbeaten on 75 off 42 balls (9x4, 3x6), Kohli produced a sparkling knock under pressure, bringing up a 25-ball half-century, the fastest of his IPL career, to ensure RCB's bowlers' earlier brilliance did not go in vain. As chants of his name echoed across a packed stadium of over 90,000, the modern great delivered yet another defining performance on the biggest stage.

RCB thus became only the third team after Chennai Super Kings (2010-11) and Mumbai Indians (2019-20) to win back-to-back IPL titles, a remarkable turnaround for a franchise long haunted by near-misses.

Put in after losing the toss, Gujarat Titans never recovered from early blows and were restricted to a modest 155 for eight. Josh Hazlewood (2-37) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2-29) set the tone in the Powerplay with disciplined hard lengths on a lively surface offering bounce and carry. The prized wickets of Shubman Gill (10) and Sai Sudharsan (12) effectively broke the backbone of GT's batting.

Rasikh Salam then ensured there was no respite for the hosts, finishing with an impressive 3-27. The seamer's wickets of Nishant Sindhu, Rahul Tewatia and Rashid Khan underlined a standout campaign in which he picked up 19 wickets in 12 matches, staking a strong claim for India selection. Krunal Pandya complemented the pacers superbly, returning 1-23 and removing Jos Buttler (19) with a smart piece of bowling.

If GT crossed 150, it was largely due to Washington Sundar's fighting 50 off 37 balls. Walking into a precarious situation, the allrounder showed composure and resolve, helping the Titans recover from 63 for two at the halfway mark to add 92 in the final 10 overs. However, the effort was never enough to turn the tide. The Titans' downfall stemmed from poor shot selection and an inability to build partnerships. Gill's ill-judged pull off Hazlewood, resulting in a simple catch to Rajat Patidar, set the tone. Sudharsan soon followed, top-edging a bouncer from Bhuvneshwar. At 26 for two, GT were already on the back foot, exposing an untested middle-order.

Their highest partnership was a mere 29 for the third wicket between Buttler and Sindhu, a reflection of an innings that never gained momentum. There were just three sixes in total, highlighting RCB's control with the ball and GT's lack of intent. RCB's chase was emphatic from the outset. Kohli and Impact Player Venkatesh Iyer (32 off 16) added a brisk 62 in just 27 balls to seize early control. Though Rashid Khan briefly raised hopes with a double strike in the ninth over, when he dismissed Patidar (15) and Krunal (1), there was little doubt about the eventual outcome with Kohli in sublime touch.

Yogesh Chawda

CLINICAL: Virat Kohli in action on Sunday

3 RCB (2025 & 2026) became the third team to register back to back IPL titles. The first two teams are CSK (2010 & 2011) & MI (2019 & 2020).

25 Balls taken by Virat Kohli to race to his 50, his quickest half-century in terms of balls in the IPL.

SCOREBOARD

GT: S Sudharsan c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 12, S Gill c Patidar b Hazlewood 10, N Sindhu c Padikkal b Dar 20, J Buttler st Jitesh b Pandya 19, W Sundar not out 50, A Khan c Dar b Hazlewood 15, R Tewatia c Patidar b Dar 7, J Holder c Hazlewood b Bhuvneshwar 7, R Khan c Shepherd b Dar 7, K Rabada not out 3; **Extras: (lb1, w4) 5; Total: (8 wkts) 155; FoW:** 1-22, 2-26, 3-55, 4-73, 5-99, 6-115, 7-142, 8-151; **Bowling:** Duffy 4-0-38-0, Bhuvneshwar 4-0-29-2, Hazlewood 4-0-37-2, Dar 4-0-27-3, Pandya 4-0-23-1.

RCB: V Iyer c Rabada b Siraj 32, V Kohli not out 75, D Padikkal c Arshad b Rabada 1, R Patidar c Rabada b Rashid 15, K Pandya lbw b Raashid 1, T David c Buttler b Arshad 24, J Sharma not out 11; **Extras: (lb1, w1) 2; Total: (5 wkts, 18 ovrs) 161; FoW:** 1-62, 2-63, 3-89, 4-91, 5-132; **Bowling:** Siraj 4-0-36-1, Rabada 3-0-44-1, Holder 2-0-16-0, Rashid 4-0-25-2, Arshad 4-0-32-1, Krishna 1-0-7-0.

Result: RCB won by 5 wickets

28 Bhuvneshwar Kumar, with 28 wickets at 17.89 in 16 matches, has recorded his best in a season, bettering the 26 at 14.19 in 14 games for SRH in 2017.

3 Bhuvneshwar is the third Indian bowler to bag 28 wickets or more in an IPL season, joining RCB's Harshal Patel (32 at 14.34 in 2021) & GT's Mohammed Shami (28 at 18.64 in 2023).

908 Run-aggregate at an average of 60.53 in sixteen innings by Sai Sudharsan and Shubman Gill as a pair in this IPL to become the first to manage 900 runs or more in an IPL season twice. The pair had amassed 912 runs at 65.14 in 15 innings last year.

3-27 Rasikh Salam has produced his second best bowling performance in the IPL behind the 4 for 24 vs LSG at Bengaluru on April 15, 2026.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

No impact sub: Sachin suggests rule changes

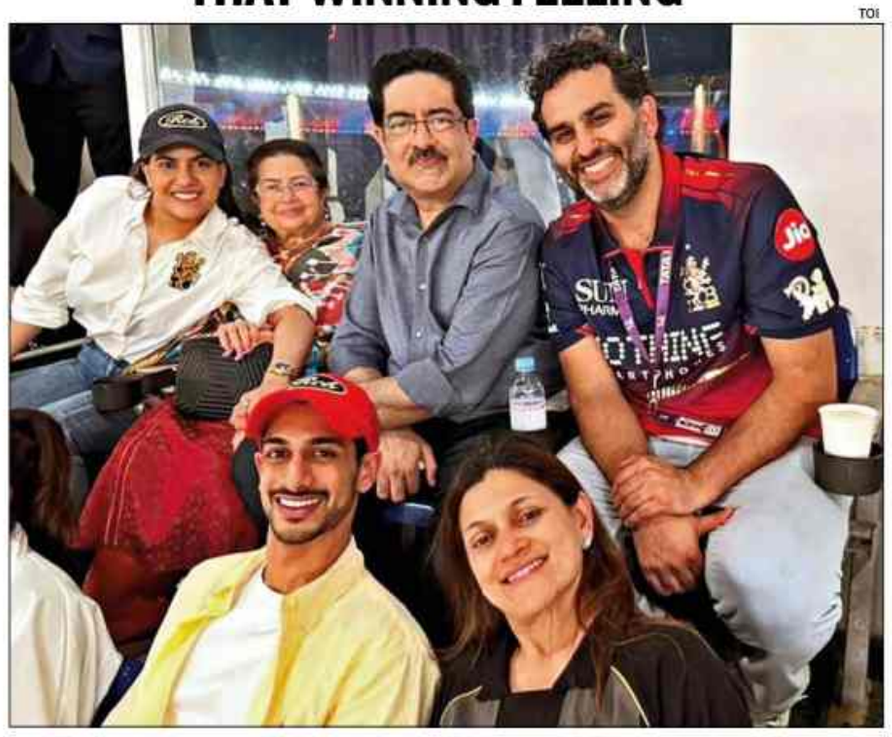
Mumbai: Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar wants the controversial impact player rule to be scrapped while also suggesting a couple of changes to restore the balance between bat and ball in the Indian Premier League.

Introduced in 2023, the impact player rule allows teams to substitute anyone in the playing XI with one of the five listed substitutes at any point of the match. "I feel there are a few things which, on a personal note that I can say, I think the impact player needs to go away," Tendulkar said at the ESPNcricinfo awards. "I feel when in a T20 format you just have to play 20 overs, and then you are adding one more batter to that line-up. Where bowlers are already being challenged, I find that imbalance."

With increasingly batting-friendly surfaces producing record scores in recent seasons, Tendulkar believes the rule has exacerbated an already uneven contest between bat and ball. The regulation has also drawn criticism from several prominent players, including India captain Shubman Gill and former skipper Rohit Sharma, who have argued that the rule takes the skill out of the game. PTI

THAT WINNING FEELING

TOI



RCB's new chairman Aryaman Birla (in cap) with parents Kumar Mangalam and Neerja, grandmother Rajashree and sister Ananya, along with RCB vice-chairman from The Times of India Satyan Gajwani (top right) at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday

'Should not play around with Vaibhav's natural instincts'

Mumbai: Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar hailed teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi as a "truly special" talent, urging coaches and mentors not to interfere with the youngster's natural instincts as he continues his rapid rise in Indian cricket.

"Everyone is talking about Sooryavanshi, and I watched him bat. It was magnificent. I mean he is something truly special. And not just the ability to hit the ball, but what also fascinated me was the wrist work that he has," Tendulkar said at Cricinfo Honours.

The 15-year-old amassed 776 runs in the IPL this season. "To be able to play in all directions of the ground, you need good wrist work. And he is not slogging the ball. He is just picking the line and length earlier than the rest of the guys and he is able to clear the rope comfortably," he said. "He's kind of a player who looks very confident, very, very sure of what he wants to do. I would not want to play around with his natural instincts," Tendulkar added. PTI

The model, equipment, and possible vehicle configurations illustrated in this advertisement may differ from the vehicles supplied in the Indian market.

BOOK A TEST DRIVE:
08048682888

THE TIMES OF INDIA
Education TIMES
THE PATH TO EXCELLENCE

CMR UNIVERSITY
NAAC
APPLY NOW!

Make Your Own Way

3 FUTURE READY CAMPUSES
9 PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS
40+ NATIONALITIES OF STUDENTS
70+ INDUSTRY READY PROGRAMMES
200+ WORLD CLASS WORKSHOPS
500+ FACULTY MEMBERS
20000+ ALUMNI WORLDWIDE

Your journey, fully supported

Scholarships & awards

HURRY!

+91 93439 05666

SNAP SHOTS

INDIA GET PAST KOREA

The Indian women's hockey team registered a convincing 3-1 victory over Korea in their second Pool A match of the U-18 Asia Cup in Kakamigahara, Japan on Sunday. Nousheen Naz, Shruti Kumari and Kiran Ekka scored for the winners. Meanwhile, the men suffered a 2-4 loss to the hosts. Ashish Tani Purti (25) and Captain Ketan Kushwaha (32) scored the two goals for India, while captain Yoshioka Mahiro (15), Fujiwara Yuma (20), Yasui Kengo (34) and Takahashi Aone (42) were the goalscorers for Japan.

Gaikwad replaces Parag: Ruturaj Gaikwad has been recalled to the India A squad for the upcoming tri-series in Sri Lanka, replacing Riyan Parag, who has been ruled out with a hamstring injury. The tri-series will feature India A, Sri Lanka A and Afghanistan A, to be played in Dambulla.

India to face Bhutan in semis: India beat Bangladesh 3-0 in a dominant show to secure a semifinal spot as Group B toppers in the SAFF Women's Championship in Margao on Sunday. Pyari Xaxa opened the scoring in the 36th minute before second-half goals from Lynda Kom Serto (78th) and Malavika P (90+1) sealed an impressive victory. India have emerged as Group B toppers and will now face Bhutan in the semifinal on June 3.

Avani, Diksha secure top 10 finishes: Indian golfers Avani Prashanth and Diksha Dagar produced top-10 finishes at the Jabra Ladies Open De France. Avani carded a final round of 2-under 69 to move to tied 5th, which equalled her career best result on the LET, while Diksha (71) ended T-9 to record her third top 10 result of the 2026 season. Avani totalled 4-under par with rounds of 72-68-69 and Diksha shot 67-72-71 to be 3-under par for the week.

Bhatia close to top 10: Indian American golfer Akshay Bhatia made two late bogeys as he carded a 1-over 71 on the third day to drop out of the top-10 of the Charles Schwab Challenge in Fort Worth, US. At a total of 7-under for 54 holes, he is now placed T-12. Sahith Theegala also carded 1-over 71 well and was placed T-46 on the leaderboard. Theegala is 2-under for three rounds with scores of 67-70-71.

Thomas slips but stays in Top 30: Rayhan Thomas had a difficult third round at the UNC Health Championship as he recorded his first over par round of the week in Raleigh, USA. Thomas carded 3-over 73 to slip down the leaderboard to T-28. Alvaro Ortiz leads the field with a score of 12-under par (67-62-69).

Spurs dethrone Thunder: The San Antonio Spurs, sparked by superstar Victor Wembanyama, advanced to the NBA Finals by dethroning defending champion Oklahoma City 111-103 on Saturday, booking a championship showdown against New York. The Spurs captured the best-of-seven Western Conference finals 4-3 to reach the NBA Finals, which begin on Wednesday against the Knicks in San Antonio.

WE MEET AGAIN!

Enrique's PSG Have Dynasty Mentality

Getty Images

Budapest: If a rock-solid Arsenal could not stop Luis Enrique and Paris Saint-Germain, one steward clutching a rope stood no chance.

The Spanish manager hurdled the obstacle and sprinted onto the pitch to celebrate the "back-to-back" that cemented the French side in football history, only the second team to retain the trophy in the Champions League era.

In Budapest they battled over 120 minutes in a 1-1 draw and edged Arsenal on penalties. That followed the semi-final classic 6-5 win over Bayern, highlighting all the qualities of PSG's game over the two legs. "The coach said it's even harder to win twice," said PSG captain Marquinhos. "We had the whole team (fighting) and the mental strength."

It did not take long for the Brazilian defender to set the next target. "We have a very young squad. We can win it three times in a row," said the skipper.

At 32, Marquinhos is an elder statesman. His centre-back partner Willian Pacho is 24, Nuno Mendes 23, Joao Neves 21, Vitinha 26, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia 25, Bradley Barcola 23, many still to hit theirpeak. French winger Desire Doue, only 20, also had his eyes on the next prize. Enrique converted Ballon D' Or winner Ousmane Dembele into a brilliant central attacker. "We can talk about the back-to-back-to-back. Our club is worthy of it," said Enrique.

Although the coach was reticent to proclaim his side would clinch the trophy again, it was clear he enjoyed the sound of the phrase. In many ways Luis Enrique is the defining figure of this PSG project, with the commercial superstars departed.

After Mbappe left in 2024, Lucho, as he is nicknamed, said his team would become even stronger. The club still invested heavily in players, but player tailored to Luis Enrique's plans, willing to run endlessly for the collective. The coach said he was "not interested" in whether he was becoming a legend or not. Yet it is clear the effect the Asturian has had on a club built in his image, capable of creating a modern football dynasty. AFP

Kvaratskhelia is player of the season
PSG's Georgia winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia was named Champions League player of the season on Sunday by a UEFA panel of judges.

THREE AND COUNTING

Enrique joins list of managers to have won three Champions League/European Cups

Manager	Years won
Carlo Ancelotti	AC Milan 2003, 2007; Real Madrid 2014, 2022, 2024
Luis Enrique	Barcelona 2015; Paris St-Germain 2025, 2026
Pep Guardiola	Barcelona 2009, 2011; Manchester City 2023
Zinedine Zidane	Real Madrid 2016, 2017, 2018
Bob Paisley	Liverpool 1977, 1978, 1981

A moment of Marta

Kostyuk Stuns 4-Time Champ Swiatek, Sets Up All-Ukrainian QF With Svitolina

AFP

THE TIMES OF INDIA AT ROLAND GARROS

Prajwal.Hegde@timesofindia.com

Paris: Marta Kostyuk has taken the long road, but she has chosen her moment well.

The 23-year-old world No. 15, unbeaten on clay since April, stunned four-time Roland Garros champion Iga Swiatek 7-5, 6-1 to reach the French Open quarterfinals on Sunday, extending her winning streak to 16 matches and ensuring a first-time women's champion in Paris.

Kostyuk had not won a set in her three previous meetings with the Pole, yet she arrived on the mighty Court Philippe-Chatrier, not driven by conviction so much as clarity, concentrating on the challenge before her while allowing herself to savour the moment. "I give myself more space. I'm enjoying creating points, dealing with challenges, learning how to navigate difficult situations in matches," she said. "The biggest thing I do now is, nothing is that big, no one point is that important. There is another one coming, always."

Since backflipping her way into the public consciousness as a 15-year-old at the Australian Open eight years ago, Kostyuk's career has unfolded in flashes of brilliance. Ranked No. 521 and armed with a qualifying wildcard she earned as the previous year's junior champion at Melbourne Park, she fought through qualifying and reached the third round of the main draw. The breakthrough, however, did not immediately translate into sustained momentum. There were signs of her potential everywhere, a win over 31st seed Daria Kasatkina at the 2020 US Open, a semi-final run at the WTA 500 in Abu Dhabi in 2021, and a first-round victory over former French Open champion Garbine Muguruza at Roland Garros that same year.

In April this year, the Ukrainian delivered the biggest title run of her career. Seeded 26th in Madrid, she defeated Jessica Pegula, Linda Noskova and Mirra Andreeva on her way to a maiden WTA 1000 crown.

In the last-eight, Kostyuk will play her compatriot, the No.7 seed Elina Svitolina, who rallied to score a 4-6, 6-4, 6-0 win over Belinda Bencic.

Maaya, Arnav in Rd 2

Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi endured frequent moment shifts to score a 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 win over China's Yihan Qu while Arnav Paparkar came through 7-6 (4), 6-4 against German Vincent Jakob Reisach charting contrasting paths into the second round of the junior girls' and boys' draws. In the mixed doubles, Yuki Bhambri and Russia's Alexandra Panova went down 1-6, 3-6 to American Desirae Krawczyk and Briton Neal Skupski.

Results (4th round)

- Men: Rafael Jodar (ESP x27) bt Pablo Carreno Busta (ESP) 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2; Alexander Zverev (GERx2) bt Jesper De Jong (NED) 7-6 (3), 6-4, 6-1.
- Women: Elina Svitolina (UKR x7) bt Belinda Bencic (SUI x11) 4-6, 6-4, 6-0; Marta Kostyuk (UKR x15) bt Iga Swiatek (POL x3) 7-5, 6-1; Sorana Cirstea (ROM x18) bt Wang Xiyu (CHN) 6-3, 7-6 (7/4)

Yamal feared missing World Cup

Reuters

Madrid: Lamine Yamal was scared of missing the World Cup after injuring his hamstring and prayed that he could recover in time.

Yamal is expected to be fit for the tournament that begins on June 11 in North America. He injured his left hamstring while converting a penalty kick with Barcelona in a Spanish league match on April 22. "I never had a hamstring injury like that but I knew that it wasn't going to be a short recovery time," Yamal said in an interview with the Spanish football federation published on Sunday. "I was afraid that it was something serious or that it could relapse and that I would miss the World Cup."

The 18-year-old Yamal went down after converting a first-half penalty kick in the game against Celta Vigo. He scored and immediately looked to the bench to signal he was hurt. He dropped to the ground as his teammates arrived to celebrate, then appeared to grab the back of his left leg. "I remember the play in which I got injured," Yamal said. "I was praying inside for it not to be serious, for it to be a cramp or something like that, because I knew the World Cup was very close."

"The moment has finally arrived," Yamal said. "Ever since the Euros ended, we've all been thinking about this day." AP

"My goal is not to be compared to them (Messi & Ronaldo), it is to be mentioned alongside them. So the next time someone is asked that question, my name will be there with theirs."—Yamal

'NO INTENTION OF REPLACING NEYMAR'

Rio de Janeiro: Brazil's Neymar is recovering well from a calf injury and could even be available for their opening World Cup match next month, coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "We left Santos to deal with that situation until the 27th," Ancelotti told reporters. "After the 27th, the CBF took over Neymar's situation, and that's what we've done. We believe he can be ready for the first World Cup match. If he's not ready for the first match, he'll be ready for the second. So we have absolutely no intention of replacing anyone."

Two final whistles in Switzerland!
A World Cup warmup game between Switzerland and Jordan ended in chaos amid extreme weather on Sunday. The match referee blew the final whistle in the 88th minute after heavy rain pounded the field with the Swiss leading 4-1. The Swiss players completed post-game interviews before the teams were summoned by Norwegian referee Rohit Saggi to complete the 90 minutes. AGENCIES

Reuters

TICKET TO RIDE: The flight number for the Aerolineas Argentinas charter is 1978, a homage to the 1978 World Cup that Argentina won. The No. 10 of Messi was featured on the tail

Suarez left out by Bielsa

Montevideo: Uruguay's Luis Suarez and Nahitan Nandez were the big names who missed out on selection for the World Cup as coach Marcelo Bielsa named his final 26-man squad. Suarez, 39, had left the door open for an international return.

But there was no place for him. Suarez had criticised Bielsa's management style although he later said he had apologised for those remarks. Nandez, 30, played for Uruguay in several World Cup qualifiers but Bielsa has phased out veterans.

SA delay WC trip on visa snarl

Cape Town: South Africa will depart for the World Cupon Monday, a day later than planned, after all the players received their visas to travel through the United States. he football association confirmed that the team had been unable on Sunday due to "challenges regarding visas" for some players and officials. AGENCIES

Dad Carlsen feeling the heat

Amit.Karmarkar
@timesofindia.com

FIDE

Oslo: Magnus Carlsen came for the fifth round of his home tournament clean shaven. But the cobwebs remained in his play. Wesely So outplayed the Norwegian world No. 1 to hand him his third classical defeat of the meet on Saturday.

Though three defeats in a classical tournament are almost unheard of in Carlsen's stellar career, it has not sent shockwaves. A combination of factors — Carlsen settling into his new role as a father, classical chess not being his priority and his recent good results — have contributed to this absorption. He also lost to Alireza and Gukesh here but defeated Pragg.

Vishy Anand had suffered three defeats in his home city Chennai in the world title match 2013 against Carlsen. That was also in a span of five games like in the title match vs Kasparov in 1995. The Norwegian is tasting a similar setback in his home elite tournament though the stakes are lower.

When asked about the changes that fatherhood may have brought to Carlsen, his coach Peter Hiene Nielsen said, "You feel a different role of responsibility and meaning in life. Chess players are used to being very egoistic and care about the result, especially in elite sport. That matters tremendously. But of course, being a father is, you know, well, then suddenly you have chosen to have another human being and you have responsibility, mainly emotionally. So of course it changes."

In almost all other games, the pendulum swung wildly. At the end of it all, Divya Deshmukh (8.5 points) took a sole half-point lead over Bibisara Assaubayeva. Divya punished Zhu Jiner (5.5) in the classical game. K Humpy won the Armageddon with black pieces against Ju Wenjun.

D Gukesh (6.5 points) escaped with victory again — this time against R Praggnanandhaa (6). But the world champion may not have attained 'growth' in Carlsen's eyes going by the quality of play in this game. Firouzja remained sole leader (10 points) after handing Vincent Keymer a defeat.

(The writer is in Oslo on the invitation of Norway Chess)

India end campaign at second spot

Hong Kong: India clinched three more gold on the final day to end their campaign second in the medal tally in the Asian U-20 Athletics Championships here on Sunday.

India accumulated 19 medals -- 10 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze -- in the four-day meet to finish second behind China (14 gold, 9 silver, 2 bronze). India also won two silver and one bronze on the final day Sunday. The Indian 4x400m women's team, anchored by Neeru Pathak, won gold with a time of 3 minute 38.07 seconds to better the meet record. The other members of the team were Bhumika Sanjay Nehate, Tahura Khatun and Sehnoor Bawa. The previous meet record of 3:38.20 was set by Japan in 2018. PTI

Coach Shako joins office, watches men's trials

Fazal Khan | TNN

Lucknow: It was a Sunday to remember for Aman Sehrawat, Sujeet Kalkal and Deepak Punia as they secured their berths for the Asian Games later this year. Despite the scorching heat outside, the wrestling hall at Lucknow's SAI Centre was packed as over 150 wrestlers tried their luck.

Watching the trials was men's freestyle wrestling coach Shako Bentinidis, who joined the national camp here. The Georgian Shako has been reappointed with the Asian Games in mind, particular focus being on Kalkal, the reigning U23 world champion in 65kg, whom Shako believes has the potential to become an Olympic medallist.

WRESTLING

But, pointed out Shako, Kalkal must further sharpen his technical skills to dominate the highly competitive 65kg category. "Sujeet has won ranking series tournaments and is a world champion at the U23 level, but the Olympic Games are different. The Olympics are not just about wrestling, they are about psychology, preparation and handling pressure," Shako told TOI.

Results: Freestyle Final: 57 kg: Aman Sehrawat def. Rahul (11-1); **65kg:** Sujeet Kalkal def. Vishal (2-0); **74kg:** Sagar Jaglan def. Jaideep (8-6); **86kg:** Mukul def. Amit (4-2); **97kg:** Deepak Punia def. Jointy Kumar (8-0); **125kg:** Rajat Rahul def. Dinesh (10-6). **Greco-Roman Final: 60kg:** Sumit def. Chetan (9-5); **67kg:** Deepak def. Neeraj (10-6, Victory by Pin/Fall); **77kg:** Aman beat Vijay (6-5); **87kg:** Sunil beat Rohit Bura (3-1); **97kg:** Nitesh Kumar beat Abhimanu (8-0); **130kg:** Deepanshu Beats Ronak (5-1).

Minhas leaves Aus in a spin

Spinner Arafat Minhas became the first Pakistan bowler to take five wickets on his ODI debut on Saturday as the hosts eased to a five-wicket win over Australia in the series opener in Rawalpindi. Minhas finished with 5/32 as Australia were bowled out for 200 in 44.1 overs before Pakistan chased down the target with 45 balls to spare in their 1,000th ODI. **Brief scores: Aus: 200 all out in 44.1 overs** (Short 55, Renshaw 61; Ahmed 2-44, Minhas 5-32) lost to **Pak: 202/5 in 42.3 overs** (Farhan 28, Azam 69, Ghori 65; Ellis 2-45). AGENCIES

D'Artagnan clinches feature

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Pesi Shroff-trained D'Artagnan, piloted by Vivek, produced a neat gallop to reign supreme in the Karnataka Juvenile Million, the main event at the summer races here on Sunday.

1. The Endorsement Plate - 1600M: Bartolino 1, Digital Empress 2, Ashwa New York 3, Asterion 4, 3/4l, 3/4l, 3/4l. T: 1:44.36. Tote: Rs 193 (W). 26, 13 (P). Fc: Rs 398. Q: Rs 146. Shp: Rs 22. Thp: Rs 43. Trinalla: Rs 446 & 150. Exacta: Rs 1101 & 530.

2. The Aureole Time Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Mericle Beauty 1, Khazana 2, Mega Success 3, Meghann 4, 3-3/4l, 2-1/4l, 3/4l. T: 1:18.59. Tote: Rs 29 (W). 14, 11, 23 (P). Fc: Rs 58. Q: Rs 23. Shp: Rs 33. Thp: Rs 47. Trinalla: Rs 303 & 226. Exacta: Rs 3284 & 1809.

3.The World No Tobacco Day Plate (Div II) - 1300M: Night Raider 1, Vibrant Queen2, Steely Challenge3, Honeypot 4, Not Run: Treasure Queen. 2-3/4l, 1l, 9-3/4l. T: 1:22.44. Tote: Rs 41 (W). 16, 14, 10 (P). Fc: Rs 200. Q: Rs 95. Shp: Rs 27. Thp: Rs 31. Trinalla: Rs 479 & 220. Exacta: Rs 7097 & 2607.

4.The S. G. Madhukar Memorial Trophy -1400M: Alfonsine 1, Zayyan 2, Sunshine 3, Invincible 4, 8l, 2l, 1-3/4l. T: 1:28.35. Tote: Rs 36 (W). 13, 10, 15 (P). Fc: Rs 78. Q: Rs 34. Shp: Rs 33. Thp: Rs 36. Trinalla: Rs 151 & 87. Exacta: Rs 5480 & 5167.

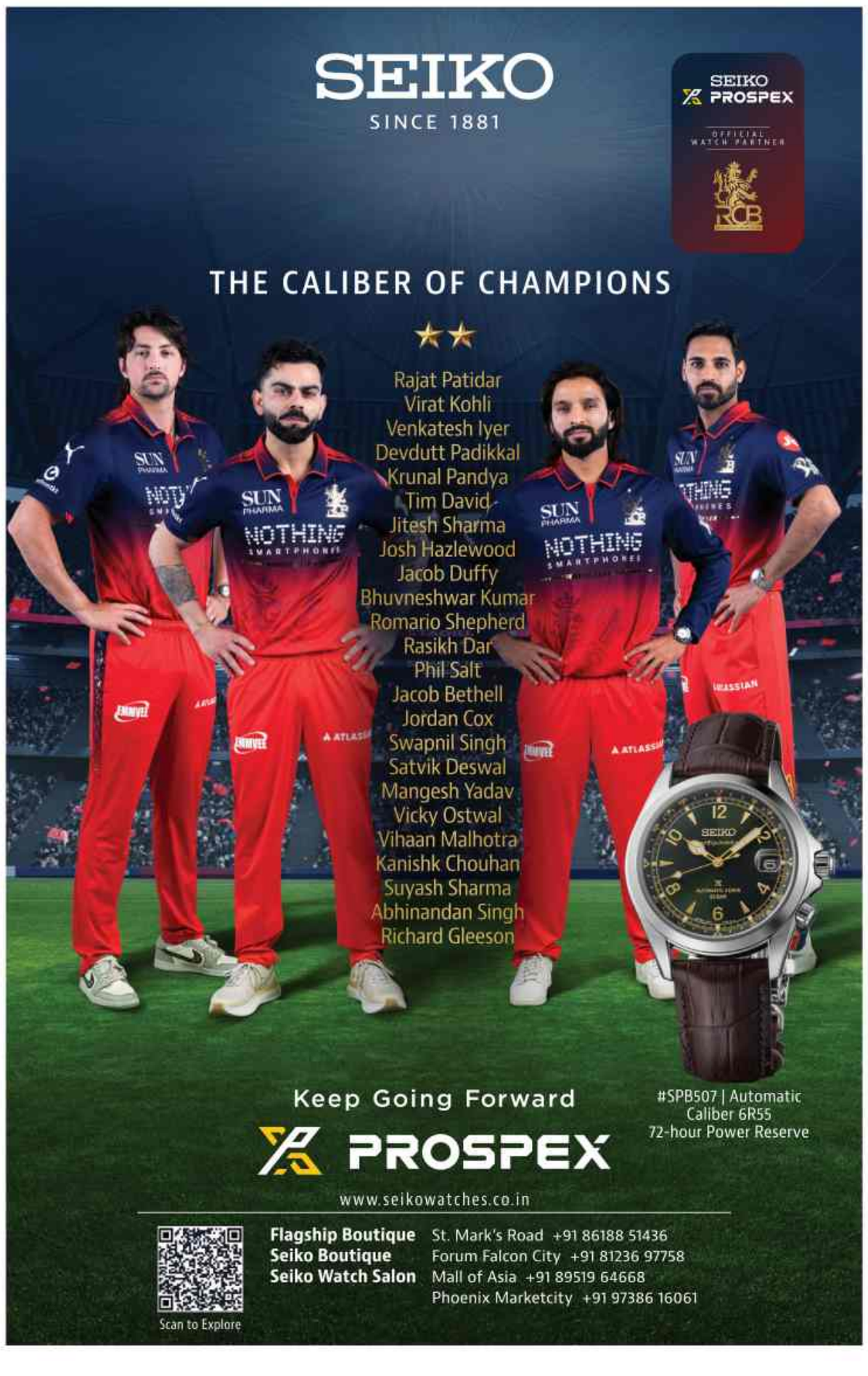
5.Bangalore Turf Club Karnataka Juvenile Million (Grade III)-1400M: D'artagnan 1, Siege Storm 2, Buckingham S. 3, Shining Ways 4, 6-3/4l, 3-3/4l, 3-3/4l. T: 1:27.84. Tote: Rs 28 (W). 14, 12 (P). Fc: Rs 39. Q: Rs 28. Shp: Rs 26. Thp: Rs 30. Trinalla: Rs 69 & 30. Exacta: Rs 202 & 129.

6.The Aureole Time Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Steffen 1, Dasadyu 2, Carter 3, Agrima 4,1-1/4l, 2-3/4l, 1l. T: 1:17.58. Tote: Rs 30 (W). 12, 18, 25 (P). Fc: Rs 300. Q: Rs 151. Shp: Rs 48. Thp: Rs 66. Trinalla: Rs 3018 & 1194. Exacta: Rs 4771 & 2272.

7.The World No-Tobacco Day Plate (Div I) -1300M: Valiant Stream 1, Darrington 2, Agrador 3, Oxytocin 4, 4-3/4l, Snkl, 1l. T: 1:22.18. Tote: Rs 18 (W). 12, 16, 16 (P). Fc: Rs 41. Q: Rs 23. Shp: Rs 29. Thp: Rs 38. Trinalla: Rs 113 & 76. Exacta: Rs 1399 & 1330

Jackpot: Rs 2702. **Runner up:** Rs 575
Mini Jackpot: Rs 880 **First Treble:** Rs 561; **Second Treble:** Rs 223

This newspaper is published by Manjeet Singh Dhami from Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., Elixir Chancery Building, 1st, 2nd and 4th Floor, 135, Residency Road, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru – 560025 (Phones: Office: EPABX- 080-42200000, Editorial: 080-46707878) on behalf of Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., edited by Neelam Raaj and printed by Sekar S at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/16/1-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Ph : 080-22899999). Regd office: Dr. D.N. Road, Mumbai - 400001. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. REGD. NO. CPMG/KA/GPO-31/2003-05, RNI NO. 45466/85



CMR UNIVERSITY

NAAC

Admissions Open
AY 2026-27

Programmes Offered

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

B.Tech
- Computer Science & Engineering
- Computer Science & Engineering (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
- Computer Science & Engineering (Data Science)
- Computer Engineering
- Information Science & Engineering
- Electronics & Communication Engineering
- Artificial Intelligence & Data Science

M.Tech
- Computer Science & Engineering
- Artificial Intelligence

Ph.D
- Computer Science & Engineering (Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Networking and Cloud Computing, Data Analytics, Cyber Security, Data Science & Internet of Things)
- Electronics & Communication Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering - Physical Metallurgy
- Mathematics

SCHOOL OF DESIGN

B.Des
- Communication Design - Product Design
- Fashion Design - Fashion Design

B.Sc.
- Game Programming
- Visual Effects & Animation

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & COMPUTER STUDIES

BCA
- Cloud Computing
- Data Science
- Game Development
- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

B.Sc Information Technology

B.Sc Electronics & Communication (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)

B.Sc Electronics & Communication (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)

BCA
- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

Ph.D Computer Applications

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & COMMERCE

BBA
- Financial Accounting & Business Analytics
- Professional Accounting
- Data Science
- Logistics Management
- Retail Management

B.Com
- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

Ph.D
- Economics
- Commerce

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

B.Arch

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

BBA
- Digital Marketing
- Business Analytics
- Finance
- International Business
- Logistics & Supply Chain Management
- Financial Markets Management
- Human Resource (HR) Management

MBA (with Dual Specialization)
- Marketing + HR + Finance
- Digital Marketing
- Supply Chain Management + Finance

MBA (with Specialization)
Business Analytics
Business Intelligence

MBA (Finance and Management)

Executive MBA
Project Management

Ph.D Management

SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES

B.A.LL.B (Hons)
B.B.A.LL.B (Hons)
LL.B
LL.M
- Constitutional Law
- Environmental Law
- Criminal Law

Ph.D Law

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES

B.A
- Psychology
- English Literature
- Economics
- Political Science
- History
- Sociology
- Media Studies
- Tourism

B.Sc. Psychology

M.Sc Psychology
- Clinical Psychology in Human Resource Development & Management

Ph.D Psychology

SCHOOL OF ALLIED & HEALTHCARE SCIENCES*

B.Sc., M.Sc (Hons) Medical
- Anesthesia & Operation Theatre Technique
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Optometry
- Medical Radiology & Imaging Technology
- Hospital Administration

CMR CENTRE FOR ENGLISH & FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Offering courses in German, Japanese, English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Kannada & Spanish

Nurturing creative thinkers who will drive positive global change

Transforming the curriculum

Empowering educators

Encouraging collaboration

CURRICULUM

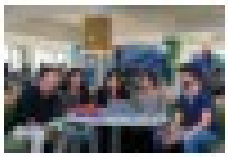
- Experiential learning
- Critical thinking
- Project-based learning
- Industry visits
- Internships
- Interdisciplinary courses

CCC

LEAP

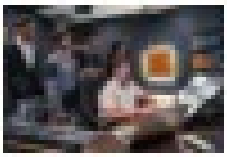
The CMRU advantage

Design Thinking Lab



Incubation Cell

Dolby Atmos Sound Studio



ICC-Standard Cricket Stadium

*Exclusive UG, PGDM, PGET, PGT and other collaborative level India Based collaborations for PGDP students.

ADMISSIONS HELPLINE
+91 93429 00666
admissions@cmr.edu.in | www.cmr.edu.in

CMRU Campus #1, Off Outer Ring Road, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 043
CMRU Campus #2, Off Kirtan Road, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 043

Apply Online

BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 129 BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 30 | PRICE ₹5

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES AND *12 PAGES OF EDUCATION TIMES (*CITY AREAS ONLY)

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

'True friendship' growing between US & Pakistan, says defence secy Pete Hegseth as Islamabad helps negotiate an end to the war in Iran, INSIDE JACKET

भारत सरकार

PM SVANidhi

PM SVANidhi Scheme

A scheme providing collateral-free loans from ₹15,000 to ₹50,000

Over the Last 6 Years...

75+ lakh street vendors received loans worth **₹17,800+ crore.**

841+ crore digital transactions worth **₹9 lakh crore** carried out.

95% of street vendors received a **bank loan for the first time.**

Around **46%** of **beneficiaries are women.**

Beneficiaries received around **₹800 crore in digital cashback and interest subsidy.**

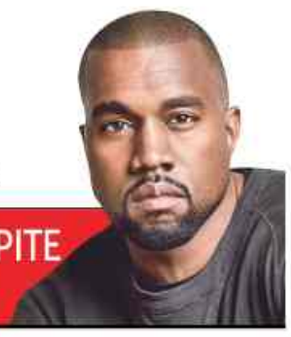
For more information, visit- pmsvanidhi.mohua.gov.in

CBC 44101/13/0002/2627

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

TODAY IS THE TOMORROW YOU WORRIED ABOUT YESTERDAY
— DALE CARNEGIE



EMILY BLUNT SAYS SHE'S 'TERRIFIED' OF AI, CHOSE NOT TO USE IT IN SPIELBERG'S 'DISCLOSURE DAY'

KANYE WEST DRAWS OVER 1L FANS TO TURKIYE CONCERT DESPITE BANS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES FOR 'ANTISEMITIC COMMENTS'

Trump sends tougher terms to Iran for peace deal: Report

Tehran Says No Deal Till Iranians Rights Secured

Tehran: Iran will not accept any agreement ending its conflict with the US unless there is certainty that the Iranian people's rights are secured, top negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Sunday, according to state media.

Ghalibaf's remarks came as reports emerged that US President Donald Trump had sent a tougher peace proposal back to Iran, and underlined the rift that the parties still need to close. "There is no trust in the enemy's words and promises. Our only criterion is to achieve tangible results before we fulfil our commitments in return," Qalibaf added after taking an oath as the re-elected speaker of parliament.

Any further tweaks to the peace draft could further delay an agreement to formally end the war in West Asia and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

The New York Times and Axios reported on Saturday that Trump had sent back a "tougher" new framework to be considered by Iran, though details remain unclear. Trump has said his priorities include stopping Iran from any nuclear weapon development and re-opening the Hormuz shipping lane, over which Iran has sought to impose control since the war began. "The one guarantee that I have to have is that there will be no nuclear weapons. They've agreed to that, and it was very interesting," he told his daughter-in-law Lara Trump in an interview on her Fox News show.

But Tehran has previously cast doubt on Trump's assertions and the sides remain far apart on key issues.

Trump has also been concerned about parts of the potential deal that would include unfreezing funds for the Iranians, two US officials told NYT. He has been harshly critical of former President Barack Obama for doing the same in the more than decade-old agreement that was signed to curtail Iran's nuclear programme.

According to the Tasnim news agency, "exchanges between Iran and the US regarding the text of a possible memorandum of understanding are ongoing, with both parties regularly proposing amendments. "No agreement has yet been finalised, and it is possible that any agreement will be rejected," it said.

Iran has said it needs the release of $12 billion in frozen assets before engaging in substantive talks on its nuclear programme, dismissing earlier Trump comments that its enriched uranium stockpile would be destroyed as "baseless", according to Iranian media. Tehran has also insisted that Lebanon be included in any deal, despite ongoing fighting, with Beirut accusing Israel of a "scorched-earth policy" as it expands operations against Iran-backed Hezbollah.

Though daily strikes throughout Iran and the Gulf halted after Tehran and Washington struck a temporary ceasefire in April and talks mediated by Pakistan, sporadic fighting has continued. Iran's Revolutionary Guards had shot down a US military drone "about to enter Iranian territorial waters", Iran's state broadcaster IRIB reported, though Washington has not confirmed the incident. AGENCIES

AP

Demonstrators wave Iranian flags during a pro-govt rally in Tehran on Saturday

Now, Hegseth says US is developing a 'true friendship' with Pakistan

US defence secretary Pete Hegseth said "true friendship" is growing between Washington and Pakistan as Islamabad helps to negotiate an end to the war in Iran. Speaking at an Asian defence summit in Singapore, Hegseth singled out Pakistan's army chief and prime minister for praise for their role in the peace negotiations.

"An unexpected development and a true friendship" has been developing, Hegseth said. "That was reflected in President Donald Trump's ability to broker peace between India and Pakistan during their conflict last year," he added. New Delhi has consistently rejected Trump's claims that he brokered the ceasefire. BLOOMBERG

Americans hurt in Kuwait

An Iranian ballistic missile strike on a Kuwaiti air base within the past 24 hours caused minor injuries to several Americans and seriously damaged two MQ-9 Reaper strike drones, according to a person with direct knowledge of the attack, who requested anonymity to describe details that aren't public. The missile was intercepted but falling debris hurt about five people, including contractors and active-duty personnel, the person said.

One Reaper was destroyed and at least one other was seriously damaged. The drones cost about $30 million each. US Central Command didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. BLOOMBERG

France detains hundreds after violent clashes following PSG win celebrations

AP

AP

A car burns as PSG supporters celebrate in Paris on Saturday; police try to disperse PSG supporters who left off fireworks

Paris: French authorities announced Sunday that 780 people were arrested across the country when overnight celebrations of Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League victory over Arsenal were marred by violent clashes, and a road accident that killed a man.

Thousands of people poured into the streets of Paris for the match and to revel in PSG's triumph in the final held in the Hungarian capital Budapest late on Saturday. But some mobs clashed with police, around 22,000 of whom were deployed across France after unrest last year when PSG also won the competition.

Highlighting an increased use of fireworks directed at law enforcement, interior minister Laurent Nunez said in a press briefing 57 security forces were injured and that there had been "219 participants injured in France".

There was some vandalism against public buildings in provincial towns such as Orleans, Nunez said. Police were not specifically targeted in most places, but one police station in central Paris was the site of brief clashes on Saturday evening, Paris police said.

The Paris public prosecutor's office announced the death of a man in his twenties after he crashed head-on into concrete blocks on a Paris ring road exit ramp on his bike.

Nunez said a small number of thefts and looting had taken place in around fifteen cities across the country and incidents of violence were recorded in 71 municipalities. The 780 arrests was a 32% increase compared to the celebrations of PSG's Champions League win last year, Nunez noted.

Politicians from the far-right National Rally, leading in opinion polls ahead of next year's presidential election, seized on the occasion to reiterate calls for firmer law-and-order policies. "Only in France does a victory of a football club trigger riots," said Marine Le Pen, the movement's leader.

Last year, similarly chaotic celebrations following PSG's first Champions League title led to two deaths. But others highlighted deep social divides as the cause of repeated violence and unrest, saying that those who had wreaked the most havoc were not representative of football fan culture. "France is living under strain. Society is becoming increasingly brutal. We are a pressure cooker ready to explode anytime," said Raphael Glucksmann, who is mulling standing in the presidential election on a centre-left ticket. The district mayor of Paris's 8th arrondissement — home to the Champs-Elysees where 20,000 people converged after PSG's victory — called for "zero gatherings" on the iconic avenue as the only way to avoid violence. AGENCIES

26 yrs on, Israel re-captures Beaufort in Lebanon

Beirut: Israeli troops have captured a strategic mountain topped with a crusader-built castle in southern Lebanon in the deepest incursion into the country in more than a quarter-century, the military said Sunday. The capture marked a major Israeli advance in the latest Israel-Hezbollah war.

The Israeli push came days before Lebanon and Israeli hold their next round of direct talks in the US starting Tuesday.

Citing the military occupation of security zones in Syria, Lebanon and Gaza along Israel's borders, PM Benjamin Netanyahu said, "The occupation of Beaufort is a dramatic stage and a dramatic shift in the policies we are leading." Netanyahu said he has ordered troops to move further into Lebanon.

AFP

An Israeli flag flies over the Beaufort Castle in Lebanon. Israeli troops previously captured the castle in 1982 and held it until they withdrew from Lebanon in 2000

Lebanese parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a key Hezbollah ally, said that he can guarantee the militant group's "full, comprehensive, and immediate commitment to a ceasefire." "But who will force Israel to stop its aggression," he said in a statement on a news channel.

French foreign minister Jean-Noel Barrot requested an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss Israeli military operations in Lebanon, which he described as "unacceptable". "Nothing can justify the prolongation of Israeli military operations in Lebanon and its increasingly deep occupation of Lebanese territory," Barrot said Sunday

The Israeli military's Arabic-language spokesperson, Avichay Adraee, posted photographs on X showing Israeli troops walking outside the castle. Israel's defence minister Israel Katz wrote on X that they raised an Israeli flag over the castle.

Israeli troops previously captured the castle in 1982 and held it until they withdrew from Lebanon in 2000. "Twenty six years after the withdrawal from the security zone in Lebanon, the Israeli flag has returned to fly on the peaks that overlook the Galilee towns," Katz said on Sunday. AP

Bigger than Elvis? Trump appoints himself 'number one attraction' for 'Freedom 250'

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US President Donald Trump is facing growing questions about the coherence of his policy in West Asia after claiming he has deliberately "spared" Iran's military, despite repeatedly declaring that US forces had already "decimated and obliterated," Iran's military capabilities.

The apparent contradiction has become a metaphor for a presidency increasingly marked by conflicting narratives, stalled diplomatic initiatives, domestic legal setbacks, and a stream of wacky social-media posts that project confusion and chaos rather than confidence. Domestic and foreign policy analysts accustomed to searching for consistency in presidential doctrine are reaching for aspirin as they track a White House that often resembles reality television in which the star keeps announcing victory while the sets collapse behind him.

Reuters/File photo

PLAYING SOLO: President Trump

The latest example is Iran, where Trump is now alternating between boasting that the US had devastated Iran's military capabilities, and suggesting, in a weekend interview sans pushback with his daughter-in-law Lara Trump, that Washington had magnanimously chosen not to finish the job. The MAGA boss said eliminating the Iranian military – which he now claims is moderate – would have left the US no one to negotiate with.

At home, Trump faces a series of similar embarrassing setbacks. The much-publicised Freedom 250 celebrations marking America's quarter-millennium are crumbling amid reports that several entertainers have bailed out. An enraged President went into a petulant midnight meltdown on Truth Social over the fiasco, saying that he is scrubbing the extravaganza because "overpaid artists" were getting the "yips." So instead, modestly announced he is "thinking about bringing the Number One Attraction anywhere in the World, the man who gets much larger audiences than Elvis in his prime," viz. himself.

Perhaps the most intriguing source of concern, however, has been Trump's own social-media feed. In recent days, middle of the night postings have included digitally enhanced images placing the president alongside George Washington, depictions of his likeness on Mount Rushmore, and illustrations evoking an idealised vision of mid-century white-dominated America.

The president's continuing fascination with cognitive testing has only deepened the discussion. Trump frequently boasts that he has aced cognitive screening examinations. Medical professionals note that such exams are useful screening tools but are not measures of intelligence. That distinction has not prevented Trump from discussing them with the enthusiasm of a Nobel laureate accepting a prize.

And so America finds itself trapped between two competing realities: the official narrative of national renewal and the daily spectacle of improvisation, contradiction and disruption. Whether historians eventually describe this period as a golden age or a golden mess remains uncertain. What is certain is that, in Trump-era US, even chaos is marketed as success.

55+ dead in blast at building with explosives in Myanmar

Bangkok: A blast on Sunday at a building in northeastern Myanmar said to have been storing explosives for mining has killed more than 55 people, according to rescue workers and independent media reports. About 70 other people were injured in the explosion that took place around noon in the village of Kaungtup, in Namhkam township.

The area, located about 3km south of the Chinese border, is under the control of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, an ethnic armed group which has engaged in sporadic fighting against Myanmar's central govt.

A rescue worker who rushed to the site of the blast told AP that 46 bodies, including six children, had been recovered by Sunday evening and taken for cremation. The rescuer, who spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons, said 74 injured people had been transported to the township hospital and rescue operations were continuing. Another rescuer in Namhkam, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said about 40 people were killed and more than 100 houses near the blast site were damaged. Myanmar media outlets, including Shan State's online Shwe Phee Myay news agency, reported death tolls ranging from 50 to 55. They published photos and videos showing smoke from the explosion and damaged buildings and debris in its aftermath.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported the explosion caused multiple deaths and injuries, with many residential houses being severely damaged, but did not give figures. It said that according to preliminary investigations, the blast occurred at a site where large quantities of explosives used for mining operations were stored. Local authorities are currently providing relief and medical care, said the report. AP

Have struck energy targets in Russia, not N-plant: Kyiv

Kyiv: Ukraine denied Moscow's claims that a Ukrainian drone struck the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, as Kyiv on Sunday launched fresh strikes overnight on Russian energy sites.

Ukraine's General Staff said Ukrainian drones struck the Saratov oil refinery in southwestern Russia, causing a large-scale fire. It said the extent of the damage was being clarified, and claimed the refinery has been supplying Moscow's war effort.

The refinery belongs to Russia's state oil enterprise, Rosneft. Local Russian governor Roman Busargin, said Ukrainian drones had damaged civilian infrastructure, but did not immediately give details. Astra, an independent Russian news channel, said an oil refinery was on fire in the city of Saratov.

"Tonight, our soldiers applied Ukraine's long-range sanctions against an oil refinery in Saratov, Russia — approximately 700 kilometres (435 miles) from the front line. A significant achievement," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on social media later on Sunday.

Ukraine's military said it did not target or strike the plant, and described the Russian claim as "yet another propaganda ploy." A military statement said that it adheres to international humanitarian law and is aware of the "consequences of any actions targeting nuclear facilities." AP

Reuters

Rescuers at the site of a Russian drone strike in Dnipro on Sunday

5 Ebola recoveries in Congo, new treatment centre opens

Bunia: Five patients have recovered from a rare type of Ebola virus, the head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Tedros Adhanom said Sunday during a visit to Bunia in eastern Congo, a city at the heart of an outbreak. "We're still working on vaccines and treatments but that doesn't mean people cannot recover from Ebola," he said during the opening of a new Ebola treatment centre in Bunia.

WHO said authorities have reported 134 confirmed cases in Congo and neighbouring Uganda, including 18 confirmed deaths as of May 29.

Baraka Bulambulu, one of those who recovered, said on Sunday that community members feared contracting an unknown illness from them, keeping their distance while delivering food. He said the uncertainty was overwhelming, as he and other patients believed they might die without knowing what disease they had. "Being able to come out of this alive is an immense source of happiness," he said. REUTERS

Brazil investigates 2 possible Ebola cases

Brazilian health authorities are monitoring two patients for possible Ebola infection, officials said. A 37-year-old man from the Democratic Republic of the Congo "exhibited symptoms such as fever, meeting the definition of a suspected case" of Ebola, the Sao Paulo state govt said on Saturday. While initial tests did not detect the Ebola virus in the patient, he is being monitored, the statement said. The health department in Rio de Janeiro state meanwhile reported that it had activated safety protocols after a man from Uganda showed "viral symptoms such as cough, chills, and diarrhoea." AFP

DAILY PLANET

Reuters

People release paper lanterns during an annual celebration of the Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and passing, in Indonesia on Sunday

Meteor explodes over US with blast equivalent to 300 tonnes of TNT

A meteor crashing toward Earth exploded over the northeastern US on Saturday, Nasa said, setting off booms that echoed over the region with a blast equivalent to 300 tonnes of TNT. The fireball broke up over northeastern Massachusetts and southeastern New Hampshire at 2.06pm (local time), the US space agency's deputy news chief Jennifer Dooren told AFP. "This fireball was not associated with any currently active meteor shower, but it was a natural object and not a re-entry of space debris or a satellite," she said. The meteor was travelling at more than 120,000kmph at an altitude of 40 miles when it broke apart, Dooren said. Area residents were alarmed by the unexpected loud booms, with social media users reporting they were so powerful that houses were shaking.

O'Sullivan clan gathering in Ireland breaks record

Almost two thousand people with the last names O'Sullivan and Sullivan travelled from around Ireland and the world to meet in County Cork on Saturday, in the largest ever recorded gathering of people with the same surname. Guinness World Records representatives verified the milestone at the event in the picturesque southwestern town of Castletownbere. "With a total of 1,848 the O'Sullivan clan are the new Guinness World Record holders, congratulations!" an official told a cheering crowd.

Horses bolt through Rome due to fireworks at parade

Fireworks set off without permission by a traffic policeman during a late-night rehearsal for Italy's Republic Day parade startled dozens of horses, sending them bolting through the capital, police said. The unexpected bangs shortly before 11.30pm on Friday caused panic among the ceremonial horses, some of which had riders while others were being led by hand. Around 35 horses fled onto the busy Via Cristoforo Colombo, where some drivers captured videos of the horses as they galloped down the road. The last horse was recovered around 14km from the scene. Several riders were injured.

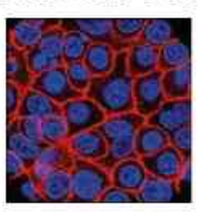
Experimental pill promises new hope for deadly pancreatic cancer

Washington: A novel pill helped people with advanced pancreatic cancer live longer, researchers reported Sunday, raising hopes of long-needed better treatments for one of the deadliest types of cancer. "While not curing the cancer, it is a large step forward," said Dr Zev Wainberg, of the University of California, Los Angeles, who helped lead the study.

The drug is called daraxonrasib and it blocks a mutated protein that fuels tumour growth in more than 90% of pancreatic cancer cases — a target that had eluded treatment for decades.

The daily pills nearly doubled survival time, with fewer severe side effects, in a study that randomly assigned the experimental drug or more chemotherapy to 500 patients whose metastatic, or spreading, cancer had quit responding to prior treatment. The findings were published in the New England Journal of Medicine and presented Sunday at the American Society for Clinical Oncology meeting in Chicago.

Those taking daraxonrasib lived for a median of 13.2 months compared with 6.7 months for chemotherapy recipients. While that may seem like a small improvement, Wainberg said it marked the first drug to show a substantial advantage over chemotherapy.



The pills' effects eventually wane but recipients used them for significantly longer than the comparison group stayed on chemotherapy, reporting less pain

The pills' effects eventually wane but recipients used them for significantly longer than the comparison group stayed on chemotherapy, reporting less pain and a better quality of life as their tumours shrank. Many still were using the drug after the data was analysed, which Wainberg said means the survival gap may widen as researchers track them.

Dr Brian Wolpin, of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, presented the findings on Sunday. He said the drug should become "a new standard of care" for previously treated metastatic pancreatic cancer, adding that researchers also will explore its use earlier in the disease, including to see if tumour shrinkage might let more patients qualify for surgery. Side effects most likely to affect pill usage were a rash that can be severe and mouth sores, he said.

Maker Revolution Medicines funded the study and the Food and Drug Administration plans to expedite review of the drug. Meanwhile, the agency is allowing what's called "expanded access" to the experimental drug for patients who meet certain criteria. The drug garnered public attention when former US senator Ben Sasse described on "60 Minutes" how he's had less pain while taking it. Oncologists are being flooded with requests as the special access program gets started.

Pancreatic cancer is among the most deadly forms because it's hard to detect. The American Cancer Society estimates about 67,000 new cases will be diagnosed in the US this year. Unlike with other cancers that have benefitted from a variety of chemotherapy alternatives, pancreatic cancer has been harder to tackle. AP